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UN INVESTS IN FOSSIL FUEL EXPLORATION PROGRAM

Bridgetown ADVOCATE-NEWS in English 5 Jan 81 p 1

[Article by Heather Greenidge]

[Excerpt]

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) has invested some half a million US dollars (Bds \$1 million) to develop a project to help Barbados identify its fossil fuel resources such as petroleum gas.

This was yesterday disclosed by Mr. Bradford Morse, administrator of the UNDP.

He arrived in the island on Saturday night to open UNDP offices at Jemmotts Lane, Bridgetown, tomorrow.

Mr. Morse said that he had discussions with Barbados' Minister of External Affairs Mr. Henry Forde on Saturday night, concerning the development of this country's petroleum and energy activities.

He said that the Barbados Government had put in an additional US\$100 000, and a Norwegian consulting firm was working with the Barbadian authority, on this second stage of the project.

The UNDP had already put up \$12 000 in the project, which Mr. Morse described as "a major programme".

Further discussions on this project and others are expected

to come up on Tuesday at an official discussion headed by Mr. Forde.

The UNDP is working in collaboration with Barbados on several projects which include:

- The Barbados National Standards Institution (BNSI);
- The reviewing and revising of the Laws of Barbados;

- A major project in human and animal health with special emphasis on veterinary services;

- The building up of a strong independent and integrated co-operative sector within the economy;

- The Town and Country Planning office;

- A major project to strengthen the Ministry of Agriculture; and the

- Insurance Corporation of Barbados.

Mr. Morse described the projects as "Barbadian projects which are supported by the UNDP".

"There is no such thing as a UNDP project," he added, "because we respect every developing country we work with and it is the decisions that are made by the Barbadian Government that we respect."

BIOGAS EXPERIMENTATION BEGUN, COULD CUT ENERGY IMPORTS

St. George's FREE WEST INDIAN in English 20 Dec 80 p 6

[Text]

BIOGAS, a new phenomenon in Grenada's history, will soon be produced at the Mirabeau Farm School and Agricultural Station, and if developed seriously and in large quantities, could help reduce Grenada's high energy import bill.

Animal manure has already been inserted in the plant to ferment and within the next few weeks is expected to reach maximum capacity for production.

The gas generated will be used by the Mirabeau Farm School and Hospital for cooking and lighting.

Biogas comes from animal and vegetable waste, when left to ferment.

The three types of biogas plants, of Chinese, Mexican and Guatemalan design, are very economical after their initial cost is covered.

The Energy Unit of the Ministry of Planning will be looking at the performance of the three plants to estimate which is the cheapest and most efficient to use in Grenada.

The Chinese model can produce three cubic metres of gas daily. A family of six normally

uses one cubic metre of gas, cooking three times daily. Gas from the Mexican and Guatemalan models could be used for heavier purposes, including generating electricity.

The three biogas models were constructed during a one-month seminar which ended last week Friday.

Some 20 persons participated in the seminar, two of whom came from St. Vincent and one from Dominica.

The seminar was organised and funded by the People's Revolutionary Government (PRG) with some financial assistance from the Organisation of American States (OAS).

Instructors Washinton Henk of Ecuador, Emmanuel Tay of Guatemala and Sirto Aguiere of Mexico came from the Latin American Energy Organisation (OLADE), whose assistance made the project possible.

The PRG wants 10 more biogas plants constructed in 1981, two of which would be in Carriacou.

Maintenance of the existing plants will come from OLADE as well as technical advice for the proposed 10.

OLADE's manager of biogas production, Alfredo Paniagua of Guatemala, who came to inspect the finished project, said OLADE is also experimenting with solar energy as an alternative to fuel and will be carrying out experiments in every member country.

He announced plans for a massive implementation of scores of biogas plants in all member countries in the coming two years. OLADE has 25 members, Grenada being the most recent.

The feature address was given by PRG member Lyden Ramdhanny who said that in 1979 the Government had received \$52 million in foreign exchange of which \$10 million was spent on gasoline. In 1980, he said, though the island got \$6 million less in foreign exchange, \$15 million had to go on gasoline.

"The production of biogas," he said, will therefore save valuable foreign currency and enable the Government to spend more money on capital expenditure for better roads, better health care and other necessities."

Bro. Ramdhanny emphasised the importance of "taking up where OLADE left off" and pointed out that the OAS and OLADE left a

number of manuals on biogas production with the Ministry of Finance, so that this simple and cheap method of producing gas could be done in every household in Grenada.

Liquid and solid fertilizer will also be produced by the biogas plants from the by-products given out. This will help to reduce the amount of money spent on fertilizer for farmers.

CSO: 3025

ARGENTINE EDITOR: CHANGE IN HUMAN RIGHTS STAND HARMS U.S. IN L.A.

PY061210 Buenos Aires HERALD in English 5 Feb 81 p 8

["As I See It..." feature by HERALD editor James Neilson: "Double Standards"]

[Text] Whenever a new government takes office in Washington it performs a curious ritual, a kind of purification ceremony that consists of redefining U.S. foreign policy as drastically as possible. Thus we have seen President Ronald Reagan and Secretary of State Alexander Haig declare Jimmy Carter's concern for human rights obsolete. Dealing with terrorism is now at the top of the agenda. Their pronouncements to this effect have, no doubt, sent spasms of joy shuddering through the barracks of Latin America where the soldiers, after four trying years of being misunderstood by Jimmy Carter, can now sleep contentedly in the knowledge that the leader of the West appreciates the essential nobility of their cause and the reasonableness of their behaviour. Or can they? While the public statements of Reagan and Haig have been trenchant enough, they also raise a number of questions, and when the new administration gets down to grappling with a complex world and not merely warning it what to expect, its actions may differ less from Carter's than its members would obviously like to believe.

There is, for example, the question of just who is a terrorist and who is not, who is to be struck down by Reagan's thunderbolts and who is to enjoy his sympathy and cooperation. It is evidently not necessary to have leftwing ideas to be a terrorist because in Reagan's book—and in Jimmy Carter's, for that matter—the Ayatollah Khomeini and his turbaned legions are terrorists. But, whatever else one may say about them, these zealots are anything but Marxists. It is also evident that terrorists can work for governments in their own territory. After all, the first terrorists to be touched by the flames of Reagan's rhetoric were in league with the people ruling Iran.

So, it would seem, in Washington today a terrorist is defined by what he does, not by what he thinks or whoever happens to have hired him. And, what is more, Reagan and his aides were unusually explicit in describing the sort of behaviour that, in their minds, makes a person a terrorist: holding people in captivity without any legal justification, roughing them up, stealing their mail, insulting them, threatening them, and putting them before mock firing squads. What was not clear, however, was whether this sort of behaviour makes a person a terrorist only when his victims are employees

of the U.S. Government. Presumably it does not. Reagan and the rest of them are surely sophisticated enough not to surrender to such preposterously subjective chauvinism when dividing the outside world into saints and reprobates.

To judge from their public statements, then, the new people in charge of the United States thoroughly disapprove of brutal behaviour towards innocent men and women and want to do what they can to make it impossible. The implications of this are interesting. A president who makes no secret of the fact that he regards the kind of treatment meted out to the U.S. hostages in Iran as the work of "savages" and "barbarians" would, one might think, be inclined to adopt a sterner attitude than Jimmy Carter himself towards thugs who abuse human rights in even viler ways. The experiences of the U.S. hostages, unpleasant as they obviously were, cannot seriously be compared to the agony of hundreds of thousands of equally innocent people in the torture chambers and concentration camps of the Third World. If crude bullying is the mark of savage barbarians, what epithets would Reagan find for those who torture, maim, rape and murder for ostensibly political ends?

In the White House today, however, few people seem to be asking disquieting questions like this. While virulently indignant when U.S. government employees are involved, the spokesmen for the Republican administration are evidently determined to close their eyes to the plight of others in the hands of people who are obviously far crueller than the "barbarians" who disgusted Reagan so much. The Reagan government, in other words, has opted for a double standard even more blatant than the one Carter was accused of observing. If a terrorist is anti-American he is a barbarian, even if he is obeying the orders of an extreme rightwing government. If, on the other hand, he claims to be pro-American and numbers leftwingers among his enemies, he is not a barbarian at all but a valued friend of the United States who should be treated with consideration.

A foreign policy based on this kind of sanctimonious cynicism is unlikely to serve the interests of the United States very well. It might, of course, make a few bull-prod-wielders pin little pictures of Reagan up above their beds, but it would also outrage Democrats throughout the underdeveloped world, especially in Latin America. The result, inevitably, would be a surge of anti-Americanism from the borders of Mexico to Cape Horn, an anti-Americanism that even the extreme rightwingers favoured by the new double standard would in all likelihood seek to capitalize because, galling as it may be to the hard-minded men and women of the Reagan administration, they despise business-oriented Republicans every bit as much as they despise do-gooding Democrats.

By disowning its public concern for the human rights of people not employed by the U.S. Government the Reagan administration has dealt a body blow to a large number of genuinely moderate Democrats in Latin America, the only people who really share the fundamental ideals of the United States and the only people whose friendship for the United States is grounded on something more solid than expediency. Does Reagan think it worthwhile to transform

them into enemies? Can the United States afford to do so? The United States, it is worth recalling, is not just one country among many. It cannot adopt the cold-hearted realpolitik of a lesser power without losing far more than it could possibly gain. The United States is the triumph of an ideal, the democratic ideal. It is, in a way, the Vatican of democracy and its identification with this creed adds to, rather than detracts from its strength in the world. This is why the United States, in its own interests, must encourage, in every possible manner, democrats wherever they are as much as the Soviet Union encourages communists. To give this up because it can cause difficulties is every bit as damaging to U.S. strength as its military and economic declines have been. The Soviet Union is the menacing power it is not just because it has a huge army but because it embodies an ideology many people find irresistible. The United States, to its great good fortune, also embodies a political philosophy that can, in the battles being waged in the minds of millions of men and women, prevail over communism, but only if the United States remains true to its basic principles. Unilateral disarmament--and effectively abandoning human rights as Haig and others so manifestly want is the political equivalent of scuttling the U.S. Navy--will do nothing to help the United States win these essential battles. Quite the contrary, in Latin America at any rate it could ensure that it loses them.

CSO: 3020

POLICE UNDER FIRE FOR ILLEGAL ACTIONS THROUGHOUT AREA

St. George's FREE WEST INDIAN in English 10 Jan 81 p 15

[Article by Earl Bousquet: "Islands' Police Actions in Question"]

[Text] Another call has come for an investigation into the St. Lucia police force, this time, from the National Workers Union, the island's largest union.

Tyrone Maynard, NWU president, this week said there are several areas needing investigation. These include persistent accusations that high-ranking police officers are accepting bribes from marijuana pushers; that citizens with a certain social status get away with crimes; that a police inspector was murdered last year by another policeman, and that another policeman, who is now crippled, was shot with a police bullet.

Several calls have been made for investigations into the St. Lucia police force over the past 18 months. Immediately after the election last year, which brought the Labour Party to office, Rastafarians and other sections of the Society called for investigations, accusing the Police of blatant atrocities and brutality.

This has not yet been done, although it has been promised by Prime Minister Allan Louisy, who is responsible for the police.

Yet, even under the new government, killings by police bullets have continued, particularly of Rastafarians. Between September 1979 and January 1980, three Rastafarians were shot dead by the police.

However, coroners' inquests ruled in each case that the killings were not deliberate, although one particular policeman was implicated in two of the three killings.

There have also been cases where young prisoners who escaped from custody were tracked down and shot dead by the notorious Special Services Unit of the force.

Maynard said that while the union is not in a position to substantiate these accusations, it felt it was necessary to investigate them, in order to ascertain the truth and to restore public confidence in the force.

The investigation call comes at the same time that a sergeant and a corporal in Antigua are facing court charges for the manslaughter of a 24-year-old Rastafarian. A coroner's inquest ruled that the victim, Bernard Brown, died from brain concussion, resulting from a lash to the head with a baton.

This case is similar to one in St. Lucia, where a youth in police custody was rushed from his cell to Victoria Hospital, where he died later from severe internal injury suspected to have been caused by beatings in custody.

Police activity is also under question in Dominica, where Rastafarians and other sections of the public are again complaining of police brutality. (as published)

In Jamaica, the police have been accused of involvement in political killings.

In Trinidad and Tobago, the police and security forces have been engaged in an onslaught against progressive intellectuals and other political forces opposed to the ruling PNM.

And in Guyana the police and other security forces have been accused of harassment of President Forbes Burnham's political opponents, particularly the WPA and the PPP.

In Barbados, three top police detectives were found by a recent commission of inquiry to have collaborated with other elements in preventing the solution of a long-standing murder case in which a journalist was killed in Bridgetown.

It is clear that the police's role as protectors of the people is in question in many Caribbean islands, and that strict measures for rooting out those elements who are responsible for carrying out such atrocious activity are necessary.

Other governments may have to take a page from the records of the new Grenada Police Service, which has been restructured since the Revolution, into a force that is genuinely serving and protecting the people.

CSO: 3025

BRIEFS

BEAGLE DELAY SCORED--As the military committee (made up of the president and the three commanders of the armed forces) continued their lengthy analysis of Pope John Paul II's proposal for an end to the dispute between Argentina over the Beagle Channel, former Foreign Minister Miguel Angel Zavala Ortiz yesterday urged a quick answer to the Vatican. Zavala Ortiz, who has also been a leader in the Radical Party (UCR) and is a former national deputy, said in a bylined article in LA NACION that "the Argentine Government cannot delay the answer." He added that any delay at all should have been "only to clarify (points in) the text or to introduce notes or conclusions to the papal decision." But he went on to say that "neither this answer aimed at clarification nor the (government's) final answer" should be delayed, since "the country should not give an impression of indecision or less still that it is stalling (instead of) taking a position." Zavala Ortiz also said that any answer the Argentine Government gave "in hope should be expressed in a spirit of gratitude, since the pontiff has employed his [word indistinct] authority" and his "fatherly concern" in trying to solve the Argentine-Chilean dispute. [Text] [PY050140 Buenos Aires HERALD in English 4 Feb 81 p 9]

SUGAR PROSPECTS--St Georges, Grenada, Friday (CANA)--Guyana and the Sugar Association of the Caribbean (SAC) have indicated their willingness to help in the eradication of cane diseases in Belize and other regional countries. This was as a result of the 5th meeting of the Commodity Working Party on Sugar recently held in Guyana. The two main diseases affecting sugar cane in the region are smut and frog hopper. Grenada was represented at the meeting by Mr Milton John of the Marketing and National Importing Board, and Mr Algenon Antoine, the Controller of Supplies. For the upcoming six months period, January to June, 1981, Guyana will be supplying sugar to Grenada at a cost of EC \$457.053 (US\$169.11) per metric ton. Some 241.50 tons will be sent for industrial purposes. At the meeting, the possible granting of priority to the Caribbean on the sale of sugar was discussed, and this will be looked at in the future. The feasibility of producing white sugar in the area was also examined, according to a statement from the Government Information Service here. The leading sugar-producing countries in the region are Belize, Barbados, St Kitts, Guyana, Jamaica and Trinidad and Tobago. However, no sugar is available from the latter for export and, there is expected to be a deficit on sugar production in 1981. [Text] [Bridgetown ADVOCATE-NEWS in English 20 Dec 80 p 3]

TEACHERS STRIKE FOR BETTER WAGES; DRAW WIDE SUPPORT

Other Union Backing

Nassau THE TRIBUNE in English 5 Jan 81 pp 1, 8

[Article by Athena Damianos: "Two Big Unions Pledge Support at BUT Rally"]

[Text] Two powerful unions turned up at a mass, open air rally at the Bahamas Union of Teachers headquarters on Bethel Avenue at lunchtime to reaffirm their support for the teachers' strike.

About 1,500 teachers thronged the union's premises to hear their leaders pledge to continue the fight for better salaries and working conditions. The scene was crawling with plainclothed and uniformed police.

Arlington Miller, president of the Bahamas Public Service Union, told cheering teachers that his union "has not accepted proposals put forward by the government and will not until all teachers and public service members are happy."

Bahamas Communications and Public Officers Union president, Charles Bethel, said his group was in full support of the teachers and that "the BCPOU is monitoring the situation. We are not prepared to see it go on for too long. We will be in close contact with your leaders."

Also at lunchtime, the Ministry of Education released a statement advising teachers and parents that students are to report to school as normal tomorrow.

The statement said "reports indicate that the majority of schools in New Providence and the Family Islands are in operation."

But union president Ellison Minnis, and secretary general Leonard Archer spiked the reports at the rally. Mr Minnis said 37 of the 39 schools in New Providence had closed. And Mr Archer said nine schools in Kemps Bay, Andros, had closed, in addition to a number in North Andros, Long Island, Grand Bahama and Spanish Wells.

"I bet you those that didn't close today will close tomorrow," he cried.

Mr Minnis began the rally by comparing the salaries of teachers with those of hotel workers and Members of Parliament.

He said that a head pastry chef makes \$8,550 a year while a qualified teacher makes only \$7,050 a year.

Leonard "Boston Blackie" Miller, physical education teacher at Government High School who was arrested for allegedly obstructing traffic this morning, urged a member from each union to run as a candidate in the next general elections.

"Ninety per cent of the Bahamian people are in unions," he said. "If the Polish workers can stand up to the Russian Army and say 'to hell with you, we aren't going to work,' then what about us?"

"I was PLP, born a PLP, but they lied to us. They shouldn't have lied to us. They're talking about this referendum to get the land back to give to our children. But they ain't gonna. They're just talking.

"Another thing. The issue isn't black and white anymore," he informed the cheering crowd.

Mr Archer said that the average parliamentarian makes \$600 an hour, while the average senator makes \$240 an hour. "And they don't even have to go to the House of Assembly to get that money. In other words, you are paying them for nothing and they have the gall to say, 'your country before yourself. They've got to be joking!"

He said the only thing to do is "get rid of the Senate." He said that during its 11 years in existence, it has yet to stop one piece of legislation.

"The government had allowed the fire to start and they don't know who's going to get burned in the flame," he said.

The Ministry, in its statement, said it wished to emphasise the point made by the Minister (of Education) that the right to strike also includes the right to work. It appealed to all those concerned to show "moderation" and to "respect and abide by the law."

Tomorrow, teachers are expected to show up at court in full force to watch while four union members are charged with obstructing traffic.

"We will be there," a union officer shouted.

"We'll see tomorrow if Her Majesty's Prison is big enough to hold 1,000 people," the officer said.

Arrest of Pickets

Nassau THE TRIBUNE in English 5 Jan 81 p 1

[Article by Gladstone Thurston: "Four Teachers Arrested at GHS for Obstructing"]

[Excerpt] Four government high school teachers were arrested this morning as striking Bahamas Union of Teachers (BUT) members disrupted the scheduled opening of all Ministry of Education schools.

And, vowed BUT secretary-general Leonard Archer: "Any problems that arise we will fight it to the hilt."

Shortly after eight o'clock this morning teachers at all New Providence and Family Island Government schools donned placards denouncing the Government's refusal to grant "appreciable" salary increases and better working conditions.

There were also an unusually large number of police officers, including members of the Security and Intelligence Branch patrolling the various schools, as Government is on record as saying that the teachers' strike is illegal.

At Government High School especially, students wanted to get into the act. Not only did they help teachers make up the placards, but at one time closed the gates and did not allow anyone to enter.

It was during that time that Government High teachers Leonard "Boston Blackie" Miller, Wayne Taylor, Philip Dorsette and Elkanah Major were arrested by ACP Paul Thompson.

According to Miller, they were at GHS gate picketing when an expatriate teacher David Greenwood tried to drive his car through the picket line. Miller claims he was hit by Greenwood's car.

A police sergeant reportedly banged on Greenwood's car to tell him to be careful. In the confusion that followed Miller, Taylor, Dorsette and Major were arrested and charged with obstruction.

Student Support

Nassau THE TRIBUNE in English 5 Jan 81 p 1

[Article by Athena Damianos: "Students in Scuffle at Ministry"]

[Excerpt] A scuffle broke out between three students and police at the Ministry of Education shortly after 11 this morning when the students stapled posters to trees in the Ministry compound. The three CC Sweeting Senior High School students went to the Ministry because they were not allowed to demonstrate in support of the teachers at their school.

The placards, which they stapled to the trees read: "Pigs of Parliament, Please Stop Messing on the People," "Social Revolution, Social Brainwashing, Social Revolution, Social Bull...", and "Democracy or Oligarchy?"

As they were stapling the posters to the trees, a group of plainclothes policemen seized 17-year-old Franklyn Robinson by the arms and ordered him to remove them.

Perry Clarke, 16, said he was also hassled by the police. The third student asked not to be named. It is believed that Education Minister Darrell Rolle watched the confrontation from his office on the second floor.

Robinson said he eventually removed the posters after the police threatened to lock him up. He said one of them had his belt off and was holding it in a menacing manner.

Union Charges

NASSAU: THE TRIBUNE in English 6 Jan 81 p 1

[Article by Gladstone Thurston: "'Government Intimidation & Deceit' Rapped by Union"]

[Excerpt] The Bahamas Union of Teachers (BUT) today hit out against the deceitful and intimidating tactics used by the government in attempting to break the teachers strike that has closed down nearly all Ministry of Education schools in New Providence and the Family Islands.

At a press conference held this afternoon by union president Ellison K. Minnis and secretary-general A. Leonard Archer, the BUT said it was "appalled at the grossly inaccurate statement" released by the Ministry on the current strike and broadcast to the nation.

"The union expected the Ministry to use whatever means at its disposal to break the strike, but it did not think that it would resort to lying about the situation," Mr Archer said.

And, in a separate development, Radio Bahamas has refused to broadcast on its community page an announcement by the BUT refuting the Ministry's claim that despite the strike, the majority of schools in New Providence and the Family Islands were able to function.

The announcement read: "The Bahamas Union of Teachers advises all its members to ignore the report carried on ZNS Radio and Television about the effect of the strike, as that report is grossly misleading and inaccurate. Only two schools out of the 37 struck had any classes; as all of the others were closed down completely.

"Over fifteen hundred teachers attended the mass rally at the BUT headquarters at 1 pm and this gives a lie to the Ministry's statement that most schools were

in session as it is impossible for teachers to have been in the schools and at the rally at the same time.

"The strike continues and members are urged to hold firm, and listen only to official announcements from the union," the BUT announcement said.

At the press conference this afternoon, Mr Archer challenged the Ministry of Education to name those schools which were able to function yesterday.

"The union is also appalled that the Ministry of Education has decided to attempt to use the children of this nation as strike breakers. The decision to do so is grossly irresponsible, as any responsible Ministry would have advised parents to keep their children home until the strike is over," he said.

He said the union is convinced that the parents will ignore the Ministry's statements and keep their children home.

The BUT promised to do all within its power, once the strike is over, to see that the strike is over, to see that the time lost by the children is made up.

Resumed Picketing

Nassau THE TRIBUNE in English 6 Jan 81 p 1

[Excerpt] Teachers resumed picketing in front of their various schools at 8 am today under heavy police surveillance.

They broke off shortly before 10 to watch as four teachers were charged in the Magistrate's Court for obstructing traffic, and then resumed picketing until noon.

On his way to a Cabinet meeting this morning, Education Minister Darrell Rolle offered no comments when approached by THE TRIBUNE.

BPSU Support

Nassau THE TRIBUNE in English 6 Jan 81 p 1

[Article by Anthony Forbes: "BPSU Gives Full Support to BUT"]

[Text] The country's largest trade union has thrown its full support behind the Bahamas Union of Teachers, striking for the second day against the Government for better wages and working conditions.

Mr Arlington Miller, president of the Bahamas Public Services Union, said at a press conference yesterday, that the BPSU stands "four square" behind the teachers, whose strike has completely paralyzed Government schools throughout the country.

His pledge was a repeat of the one he made at a mass rally at Windsor Park last December 10.

"We made it clear during the mass rally that we stand four square behind every single union that they should have the right to strike...whether it be the teachers or anybody," Mr Miller said.

He said that the BPSU is a part of the Trade Union Congress and that as the Bahamas Union of Teachers is also an affiliate of the TUC, his union "sympathises" with them.

Asked if he saw the teachers industrial action turning into a general strike, Mr Miller pointed to the Industrial Relations Act which details the steps to be taken before a strike can be legally called.

"The only union that took a strike vote was the BUT," Mr Miller said. "We don't know anything of a general strike. I have never attended a meeting where a general strike was discussed."

The Bahamas Communications and Public Officers Union has also declared support for the teachers in their strike against Government.

The Trade Union Congress met last night but it is not known whether any decision has been taken in support of the teachers, whose union is a member of the TUC.

It is understood that the crunch meeting at Workers House was to determine the position to be adopted by the TUC during the teachers strike.

TUC president and head of the Powerful Bahamas Hotel and Catering Workers Union, David Knowles, chaired last night's meeting.

Several other unions, including the Airport Airline and Allied Workers Union, the Bahamas Electrical Workers Union and the Bahamas Construction and Civil Engineering Union, also gave support to the BUT at last month's mass rally.

Teacher Solidarity

Nassau THE TRIBUNE in English 6 Jan 81 p 1

[Excerpts] Twelve of the fourteen Bahamian Queen's College high school teachers headed by veteran educator and former Cabinet Minister Carlton Francis have joined the Bahamas Union of Teachers (BUT) and have pledged solidarity with the Ministry of Education teachers who are now on strike.

In a letter to BUT secretary-general A. Leonard Archer, the teachers said they supported the "teachers who are presently taking industrial action for better working conditions and higher wages."

Said the letter: "You can measure the extent of our sympathy when you realise that our salary scales are below your present level; however, we are not in the process of making representation regarding our present plight."

Bahamian lecturers at the College of the Bahamas staged a "sick-out" today in support of the Bahamas Union of Teachers strike for better wages and working conditions.

Although they are members of the same union, College lecturers must negotiate for a separate labour contract and were not eligible to take a strike vote along with teachers from the rest of the public schools late last year.

Pindling-Archer Meeting

Nassau THE TRIBUNE in English 7 Jan 81 pp 1, 4

[Article by Gladstone Thurston: "Pindling Meets Archer & Rolle in House Talks"]

[Excerpt] Prime Minister Lynden Pindling and Bahamas Union of Teachers secretary-general A Leonard Archer were closetted in a crunch meeting at the House of Assembly this afternoon as hundreds of striking Ministry of Education teachers staged a mass demonstration outside.

Singing, shouting and clapping, the teachers and students from R. M. Bailey High and Government High marched around the House until they were herded into Rawson Square by police.

When the House adjourned at 1 pm, the teachers thronged Parliament Square shouting for Mr Pindling to come out. Up to 2:30 neither he nor Education Minister Darrell Rolle nor Deputy Prime Minister-Minister of Finance Arthur D. Hanna had come out of the House.

THE TRIBUNE was told that Mr Pindling, union leader Archer, Trade Union Congress president David Knowles MP and Mr Rolle were inside the Government committee room in the House hammering out some kind of agreement.

And, as the PLP MPs walked by the throng, they were roundly booed. When Grant's Town MP Shadrack Morris went to talk to the teachers they shouted "Go back, Shadrack, go back. Come out Pindling."

Even Radio Bahamas (ZNS) came in for severe criticism. When TV-13 cameras came on the scene, the teachers shouted: "Lying ZNS: Lying ZNS."

Although they were raising cane, the teachers were generally well-behaved and obeyed police orders to keep moving. Even when the police locked arms and hustled them across Bay Street and into the northern portion of Rawson Square, the teachers did not react violently.

Pindling Comments

Nassau THE TRIBUNE in English 7 Jan 81 pp 1, 4

[Article by Anthony Forbes]

[Text] Prime Minister Lynden Pindling told the House of Assembly today that the salary proposals of the striking Bahamas Union of Teachers "far exceeds" what is available for salary increases and what the Bahamas Public Services Union proposed.

Speaking as hundreds of teachers and students assembled outside the House singing and shouting slogans, the Prime Minister said that the BPSU proposal was considered reasonable and it was thought an agreement had been reached.

Mr Pindling was moving a motion for the adjournment of the House business because the issue, raised in a Free National Democratic Movement communication today, was of national importance and time was needed to study it.

The communication read by Mr J. Henry Bostwick, FNDM Leader, called on the Government to bring the salary of the teaching profession up to par with those in other professions.

Mr Pindling's remarks were made as the teachers strike entered its third day throughout the country crippling all Government schools, and against the background of noisy teachers and students in Bayton Square below.

He told the House that it was important for members to avail themselves of the opportunity to understand fully the areas and points of dispute between the teachers and the Government.

He noted that in January, 1980, the BUT submitted a proposal to Government for salary increases and improvement in conditions, which if approved, was to have been effective to January, 1980, and to continue through January, 1981, and January, 1982.

The Prime Minister said that improvement in the salary of teachers was made that same year in May.

During the 1981 budget debate, \$8.6 million was allocated for salary increases in 1981 for public servants.

"This is principally where the difficulty lies," Mr Pindling told the House.

"The proposals of the BUT far exceed what is available for salary increases and far exceed what the BPSU proposed.

"The BPSU proposals are considered reasonable and it was thought that an agreement had been reached," said Mr Pindling. However, the BPSU has denied that any such agreement was reached.

Mr Pindling said that there were several areas of difficulty in the proposals of the BUT, one of which includes special hardship allowances for teachers in the Family Islands, ranging from \$2,500 to \$1,000.

"This part of the BUT proposal is in the exceptional category," he said. "Not only in so far as the amount is concerned but simply because the Government would have to take into account public officers in other areas."

He said that it had to be made clear to the BUT that whatever settlement had to be reached, it had to be applied across the board to other public officers.

He said that to agree to the teachers demands would not have been fair and to give it across the board to other public officers would have been beyond the funds of the public treasury.

"The position as of today is that the \$8.6 million expressed in the budget has already been advanced upon by collective bargaining," Mr Pindling said. He said it was increased to between \$10.6 million and \$11 million.

"In all good conscience the Government does not believe that it is taking an unreasonable position," said the Prime Minister.

He also asked what is the position of the BPSU, which also rejected Government's latest proposal on January 2.

He said that the crunch of the matter is whether the leaders of the unions can agree, whether they are free to agree "or the friend from Montagu is inducing them not to agree."

"Basically, in a nutshell, those are the main points in respect to the BUT and the BPSU," he said. "This matter is of such importance that the Government believes everyone should have an opportunity to know all the facts."

He said that increases of the kind the BUT is asking for can only result in increased school fees in the private schools.

He said that there is no way that the teaching profession can be brought on par with all other professions. He said that all professions have to have certain minimum qualifications.

Seconding the motion for adjournment was Northern Long Island MP, Philip Smith. Also speaking was St Barnabas MP and Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Education and Culture and Minister Darrell Rolle, who was to continue his address when the House resumed at 3 pm today.

FNDM Statement

Nassau THE TRIBUNE in English 7 Jan 81 pp 1, 4

[Text] FNDM Leader Henry Bostwick read a communication in Parliament today urging Government to find an immediate and just solution to the "potentially explosive" labour strife that is affecting the country.

The following is Mr Bostwick's communication:

Mr Speaker,

Our Nation is in a crisis. The entire well-being of the Nation is threatened by current Labour disputes between various unions and the Government.

Bearing in mind that the Government of the day is by itself the largest single employer of Bahamian labour we should stop and take heed lest the current unrest should cripple our nation's economic and social fabric. It is therefore imperative that for the sake of us all, the Government finds an immediate and just solution to the potentially explosive labour strife with which we are besieged.

Already as a result of the Bahamas Union of Teachers strike, now in its third day, we must be apprehensive of the immediate short term ill-effects. Perhaps it can all be summed up in the common saying "The devil finds work for idle hands." But more particularly we must remember that the hands of which we speak are the hands that build and have built: and will continue to build this nation. Those hands have constructed our past and our present. And we all know that it is with the utmost sincerity that our teachers now pursue that course which they, as educators, have deemed to be in their and their country's best interest over the long term.

Who is there among us who dares to accuse one single teacher in our country of not having always put the interest and welfare of this country above their own? None could seriously suggest that they are not entitled to more for their labours. They have given much but have received little in return. They have ministered long and faithfully but have been poorly administered unto except for the inward sense of satisfaction and pride they must feel--sometimes--when they see the product of their labours--the doctors, the lawyers and yes, even the Ministers of Government.

The Free National Democratic Movement believes and it urges this House and the Government in particular to adopt a posture towards the teaching profession which will bring it on par with all other honourable professions. Give them the means whereby they can live up to the commitments to those in their charge, to their families and to our young and growing nation at large. Restore to our teachers the esteem and dignity becoming of their professional status. And above all let us save the children. For they are indeed our most cherished natural resource. And the teachers are our trustees."

Criticism of ZNS

Nassau THE TRIBUNE in English 7 Jan 81 p 1

[Text] The Free National Democratic Movement last night launched a scorching attack against ZNS Radio/TV for its one-sided reports on the teachers' strike.

And in a separate development THE TRIBUNE learned that some ZNS reporters have received threatening telephone calls from teachers who are angered over the news presentation on the strike.

Beginning the first of a series of political meetings in Inagua Hall on Hay Street last night, FNDM members one by one got up and denounced ZNS.

Party chairman Cecil Wallace Whitfield told the TV crew covering the meeting: "In ZNS they are telling lie after lie after lie. There comes a point of time when each of you must decide whether you will grow into a perverse like roaches or mice, or stand up like men."

Mr Whitfield slammed ZNS for carrying a statement by the Minister of Education, who said the majority of New Providence schools remained open Monday, at the same time denying the Bahamas Union of Teachers the right to broadcast a paid announcement stating that 37 of the 39 schools in New Providence had closed.

He told the cheering crowd that ZNS is being financed by the people and is there for the people to use.

Newly joined FNDM member Ed Moxey said "I bet you won't hear any of this on ZNS tomorrow."

Mr Whitfield also rapped the Minister in charge of broadcasting, Kendal Nottage, for his threat to dismantle cable TV in Freeport. "All the PLP wants to do is control the news," he said. "Of all the stupid, arrogant and spiteful things to do. They don't want you to watch American TV programmes. They don't want you to know what's going on in the world. What are they afraid of?"

Mr Whitfield also hit out at Government for the lack of a defence treaty with a country like the US and for failing to improve living conditions for Bahamians. He warned the audience not to fall for pre-election activity, such as minor road repairs, and the like.

A number of party officials spoke, including leader Henry Bostwick, who was given a rousing welcome. The meeting was well attended by a wide cross-section of the community. There were teachers, taxi drivers, College of the Bahamas students, representatives from other political groups as well as other members of the public. A loudspeaker was hooked up outside a window so that the party's meeting was broadcast all over the Grant's Town area.

Talks Stalemate

Nassau THE TRIBUNE in English 9 Jan 81 p 1

[Article by Gladstone Thurston]

[Excerpt] The second in a series of crunch talks between the Bahamas Union of Teachers (BUT) and Government ended with no settlement in sight as striking Ministry of Education teachers remained off their jobs for the fifth consecutive day today.

A statement is expected later this evening from the Bahamas Trade Union Congress (TUC) giving that organisation's stand on the teacher strike, which closed nearly all Government schools this week. It is believed the TUC will support the teachers.

Contacted today, BUT secretary-General Leonard Archer said there is no immediate end to the strike--the union's last resort after a year of protracted negotiations for more pay and better working conditions.

"We had some talks yesterday (with Finance Minister Arthur Hanna), but again they were informal and exploratory," Mr Archer said. "We are not near enough to deal with specific points--the difference between what is offered and what is proposed." Also in on those talks were representatives from the Bahamas Public Services Union.

In the meantime teachers continue picketing outside their various schools, singing and shouting their displeasure at the manner in which they are being dealt with by Government.

SPD Backing

Nassau THE TRIBUNE in English 9 Jan 81 p 1

[Article by Athena Damianos]

[Excerpts] Warning that Government will use economic pressure to try to break the teachers' strike, the Social Democratic Party today presented a cheque to the Bahamas Union of Teachers for \$3,000--half of it as a gift, the other half an interest free loan.

And party leader Norman Solomon urged the public to send contributions to the union. He said the issue was not only that of salaries and working conditions, but also one of preserving democracy.

"It would be grossly unfair and unfortunate if the Teachers Union had to buckle under and accept Government's dictates simply because the teachers' can't pay their bills or eat," he said.

"The teachers are exercising a democratic act and a constitutional right in an ethical manner and in a proper way to acquire what they feel they're entitled to."

Mr Solomon said democracy will be grossly interfered with if Government uses its "greater financial muscle" to wrestle the union to its economic knee.

Breaking away from a mass rally at union headquarters at lunch time, president Ellison Minnis said the BUT would accept the SDP's cheque and any other contributions. He said the union has opened an account for that purpose.

Expatriates' Fears

Nassau THE TRIBUNE in English 9 Jan 81 p 1

[Excerpt] A number of expatriate teachers have admitted that they are afraid to join in the Bahamas Union of Teachers' strike because they fear reprisals from Government.

And some of them have also reported that they are being abused by Bahamian teachers because the Ministry of Education has ordered them to cross the picket line to sign in for work.

"Our backs are against the wall," one expatriate teacher said. "We want to strike, but there are things the Government can do to us if we do strike."

One of those things would be for Government to deprive expatriate teachers of a 15 per cent gratuity they are entitled to after their contract is up. In some cases this amounts to \$5 to \$6,000.

Also the teachers have not forgotten the treatment given Chicago-born teacher Al Schimpf in October, 1976. Mr Schimpf, with a Bahamian wife and child, and a \$40,000 mortgaged home was fired by the Ministry of Education and given about a month to leave the Bahamas.

Pindling Interview

Nassau THE TRIBUNE in English 10 Jan 81 p 1

[Interview with Prime Minister Lynden Pindling by Mary Kelly on radio program "Mary's Notebook," 9 January 1981]

[Text] Prime Minister Lynden Pindling said last night that Government has advanced the maximum salary/increment/hardship allowance proposals possible to the teachers and it would be "out of the question" to conclude a separate agreement with that sector of the public service.

Also, he warned that "behind-the scene" political manoeuvring would make it "pretty difficult" for the teachers union to reach an agreement at this particular stage.

The Prime Minister was making his annual appearance on the radio programme "Mary's Notebook," hosted by Mary Kelly. It was Miss Kelly's 14th anniversary on radio and Mr Pindling's 14th anniversary as prime minister.

"We all know there's an election in 1982 so we can expect that (political manoeuvring) will happen in 1981," Mr Pindling quipped.

"For instance," he continued on a more serious note, "I think there has been some political manoeuvrings behind the scene of the present industrial situation and I believe its going to be pretty difficult for the teachers union at this particular stage to reach an agreement."

Mr Pindling said it is not possible for the Government to agree to give teachers certain benefits to the exclusion of other public officers.

For instance, he said the nurse at Black Point, Exuma, has to work on weekends and holidays, while teachers are off the job.

"Why should the teacher at Black Point be entitled to a hardship allowance for having to serve in that is dated community, and the nurse should not when the nurse has to be there on Saturday and Sunday and all through the summer when the teacher's away?" he asked. [as published]

He said immigration officers, whose lives are on the line, do not get hardship allowances either.

"It's not possible to enter any separate agreement with the teachers because if that were to happen, then you really have a problem (with all others in the public service). So it's out of the question. The Government cannot and will not enter into separate arrangements with the teachers."

And he asked: "How many times is it going to come out of Government's pocket without (Government) having to increase taxation to pay for it?"

Although he refrained from giving an opinion on the teachers action--"while this action is on I think I will not say what I might have said"--Mr Pindling questioned the impact the strike could have on the upcoming GCE examinations.

"Don't we have any sense of responsibility to the children we are teaching to see that they get through their examinations?" he asked.

"If we have a dispute here, carry on with the dispute. But we still have certain responsibilities that we have to carry on."

In the meantime, he said, politicians will seek to exploit to the best possible advantage any given industrial situation.

Catholic School Teachers

Nassau THE TRIBUNE in English 10 Jan 81 p 1

[Excerpt] Teachers of the Grand Bahama Catholic High School have come out in full support of the striking Bahamas Union of Teachers, seeking better wages and working conditions from the Government.

And the principal of the school, Mr Joseph Darville, a long-time union member, has also publicly expressed his full support for the "honourable and just struggle" by the BUT, which continued for five straight days this week.

In a press release signed by Stephen E. Palakaris, religious education teacher at the school, the teachers say, however, that they have no immediate dispute with their employer the Catholic Board of Education, which is independent of the Government.

Therefore, the teachers of the school, the only major private school that is almost 100 percent unionised, say they do not plan at this time any action which would hamper the smooth and regular operation of the school.

BCPOU Support

Nassau THE TRIBUNE in English 12 Jan 81 p 1

[Article by Athena Damianos: "Massive Sick-Out at ZNS & Batelco"]

[Excerpt] Members of the powerful Bahamas Communications and Public Officers Union staged a mass sick-out at two Government Corporations today in a show of solidarity for striking teachers.

And as the teachers strike entered its second week it was reported that unless agreement is reached today between Government and teachers over pay, other unions in the country were expected to march to the Cabinet Office tomorrow while the Cabinet is in session to show their support for the teachers' cause.

Those places affected by today's sick-out action were the Bahamas Telecommunications Corporation (Batelco) and the Broadcasting Corporation of the Bahamas, where workers are members of the BCPOU.

Street Demonstration

Nassau THE TRIBUNE in English 13 Jan 81 p 1

[Article by Gladstone Thurston: "Striking Teachers Bring Traffic to a Halt, & Five Are Arrested"]

[Excerpts] Striking Ministry of Education teachers today stormed Parliament Square and closed Bay Street to vehicular traffic.

Demonstrating their disgust at the Government's refusal to "deal justly with us," the teachers turned out in full force this morning and after marching and singing around Parliament Square, sat down in the middle of Bay Street--bringing all traffic to a halt.

It was the first time demonstrations in Bay Street had brought traffic to a halt since the early 1960's when the now ruling Progressive Liberal Party led by then Leader of the Opposition, Lynden Pindling, staged a demonstration against the United Bahamian Party regime.

"We want to formulate the message you are going to the Prime Minister," Mr Archer told teachers. "We have already proven that we can shut down Bay Street. If we have to come back tomorrow and the day after that and the day after that we will have to do it." [as published]

TUC Position

Nassau THE TRIBUNE in English 13 Jan 81 pp 1, 4

[Article by Athena Damianos: "TUC Said To Be Backing Off Giving Support"]

[Excerpt] The President and vice-president of the Bahamas Communications and Public Officers Union wanted to know today whether the Trade Union Congress is backing down from an agreement to support the striking Bahamas Union of Teachers.

And the secretary general of the BUT, who holds the same position with the TUC, said "I think there's some stalling, certainly."

The TUC is headed by David Knowles, also head of the powerful Bahamas Hotel Catering and Allied Workers Union and a PLP Member of Parliament.

Speaking at today's mass teachers demonstration on Bay Street, BCPOU president Charles Bethel and Keith Archer, his deputy, warned that there may be no more TUC if the Congress falls down in its support of the teachers.

Mr Bethel said he was "very disappointed" at the absence of other unions on Bay Street this morning. He pointed out that the TUC at a meeting last Friday told members of various unions to be prepared to take request by not reporting to their jobs yesterday. Today, the sick-out against both Government corporations entered its second day.

"The question in my mind is what is going to become of the TUC," Mr Bethel said. "They've got plenty of explaining to do. All the indications are that they are backing out."

At first, Mr Bethel said he had no idea why the TUC would back out. Then he said: "I believe they're playing politics. Politics are creeping in on it now."

Asked if he felt David Knowles was having difficulty deciding between two masters, he said: "That's questionable."

"We're very much disappointed that the other unions aren't out here. The TUC asked all members to take action and we all agreed that we would.

"I want the public to know that if the teachers lose the strike it could mean an end to all unions in the country because it appears as if the union leadership today is putting politics first instead of unions."

BCPOU's deputy leader, Keith Archer, said: "The purpose of the TUC is to support all of its member unions when they are in trouble. The teachers are looking for help now." And he said that unless the TUC acts now "there may be no need for the TUC, or at least for this particular TUC."

He said it appeared that officers of other unions were "holding their people back" from demonstrating with the teachers.

Leonard Archer, secretary general of the teachers union and the TUC, said "we expected more of them (unions) to be here.

"I don't like in public to quarrel with my colleagues, but I think there's internal politicking going on. It's obvious that the Government is concentrating on, or attempting to satisfy the BPSU (Bahamas Public Service Union). The play was to keep them out of it.

"I have no way of knowing whether they were satisfied with it (Government's latest proposals) or not. Their absence today might mean they're satisfied," said Archer.

BPSU president Arlington Miller only last week stated that his union would not reach an agreement with government unless the teachers were satisfied as well.

Mr Archer said one of the reasons other unions might not want to get involved in the teachers struggle is because they don't want to take action that would appear to be against government.

Docked Pay

Nassau THE TRIBUNE in English 14 Jan 81 pp 1, 4

[Article by Gladstone Thurston]

[Excerpt] While striking Ministry of Education teachers were today considering a counter proposal to the Government's latest offer, news was received that those teachers who did not report to work when school opened ten days ago will get a deduction in salary.

A source close to the Government negotiators told THE TRIBUNE that salary deductions are being carried out by the treasury immediately.

THE TRIBUNE was told that during discussions last week the Government had agreed with the Bahamas Union of Teachers (BUT) that if the strike had been settled by Friday there would be no deduction in salaries.

That deadline was extended to Monday twelve noon. The strike was not settled and yesterday teachers staged a mass demonstration in Parliament Square that closed that section of Bay Street to vehicular traffic.

"The deadline is past and the treasury has started deductions," THE TRIBUNE was told. "All those teachers who did not report to work will receive a deduction in salary for the time they have been off the job."

During a meeting with the Bahamas Trade Union Congress (TUC) last night, a proposal to counter the Government's latest offer was hammered out. The proposal was further discussed by union leaders today. The BUT membership was to vote on the counter proposal this evening.

Addressing teachers this morning, BUT president Ellison K. Minnis said that all affiliates of the Bahamas Trade Union Congress (TUC), except the BCPOU, have withdrawn "direct support" of the striking teachers.

Loss of Support

Nassau THE TRIBUNE in English 14 Jan 81 p 1

[Article by Anthony Forbes: "ZNS & Bate, Back to Normal"]

[Excerpt] Workers of the broadcasting and telecommunications corporations returned to their jobs today ending a massive two-day sick-out that nearly paralyzed Batelco and ZNS Radio and Television.

The ZNS and Batelco workers, who are members of the Bahamas Communication and Public Officers Union, began the sick-out on Monday and continued throughout Tuesday.

The action was taken in support of the striking Bahamas Union of Teachers as part of an agreement reached last week by members of the Trade Union Congress.

The sick-out forced both ZNS and Batelco to operate with skeleton staff comprised mainly of management personnel and non-union workers.

College Faculty Position

Nassau THE TRIBUNE in English 14 Jan 81 pp 1, 4

[Text] The Faculty Association of the College of the Bahamas reaffirmed its "continued support" for striking teachers today and said it regrets that it would be illegal for members to join in the strike.

"However," it warned, "we declare publicly our willingness to continue to pursue any lesser industrial action to promote our common cause."

Yesterday, some college lecturers called in sick and gathered on Bay Street to join in a massive demonstration staged by striking members of the Bahamas Union of Teachers.

Today's statement by the Association, released by president Autrey Bullard, said that members viewed with "interest and alarm" the government's position that any pay increases offered beyond \$1,050-\$1,250 would cause "serious harm to the overall public welfare."

It reminded Cabinet executives that when their salary increases are computed over a period of 13 years, not including latest increases, the Prime Minister has been receiving an annual salary increase of \$5,333.33; the Deputy Prime Minister, an annual increase of \$5833.33; and other Cabinet ministers an annual increase of at least \$2,500. [as published]

"It is regrettable therefore that Cabinet executives for many years now have earned salaries which will not be seriously affected by inflation for many years hence, while teachers still struggle to survive from one pay day to another; and while teachers struggle for increases which still will not enable them to save," the statement said.

The Association said it supports the striking teachers because its members share certain common aims and objectives and therefore empathise with the common quest for "persuasive improvement" throughout the educational system.

"Members of the Association firmly believe that, ultimately, improvement in the educational system will be reflected in the social and economic well-being of all of the Bahamian people," it said.

The Association said the "malignant neglect" of teachers and their working conditions at the primary and secondary level is a reflection of the kinds of neglect which lecturers of the college and the total college environment have been experiencing for the past six years.

And it advised that "in order to avoid future crisis within the educational system," the government should:

- Provide all college employees with pensionable security afforded other public servants in the event of retirement, disability, death etc;

- Grant lecturers of the Association statutory representation on the COB Council to ensure that they fully participate in decisions which affect their well-being "in accordance with the principles of natural justice" and ensure their professional participation in policies which affect the growth and direction of the college; and

- Give serious consideration to future recommendations by the Association which affect the physical and academic environment of the college.

The association said that the overall public welfare cannot be divorced from the welfare of the teachers.

Leaflet Distribution

Nassau THE TRIBUNE in English 16 Jan 81 p 1

[Article by Gladstone Thurston: "Strike To Go Into Third Week If No Settlement"]

[Excerpt] Striking Ministry of Education teachers today vowed to take their industrial action against Government into a third week unless a just settlement is achieved over the weekend.

Rounding out their second week off the job, the teachers have decided to counteract "ZNS propaganda" by themselves going into the community "and educating the people on the true facts."

"I can't say with any certain that I have a feeling that negotiations will probably resume either today or tomorrow," Bahamas Union of Teachers (BUT) secretary-general A. Leonard Archer said.

Leaflets address to "The Bahamian People" and "The Bahamian Public" putting the union's point of view are being circulated throughout the Bahamas.

Vanguard Party Statement

Nassau THE TRIBUNE in English 16 Jan 81 p 1

[Text] The Vanguard Party gave "unequivocal" support to the striking Bahamas Union of Teachers Wednesday calling their sufferings "a microcosm" of the more brutal conditions endured by thousands of underemployed and unemployed Bahamians.

In its first statement on the BUT-Government crisis since it erupted into a national teachers strike January 5, the Vanguard asked the teachers not to be "used again" by the other political parties, but urged the teachers to support the Vanguard.

"The Vanguard Party unequivocally supports the struggle of the Bahamas Union of Teachers against the oppressive wage policies and working conditions that the PLP Government has inflicted on them," the socialist party said.

"In fact, the sufferings of the Bahamian teachers are a microcosm of the even more brutal conditions under which thousands of underemployed and unemployed people live in this country," said the Vanguard in its statement entitled: "The Trade Union vs Bahamian Government Struggle."

Vanguard said the teachers have frequently pointed to the wide disparity between their salaries and emoluments and those of government ministers and parliamentarians.

"It is scandalous that in such a small country like the Bahamas that a government with any spark of concern for the masses would vote itself such salaries," Vanguard said.

Vanguard said it is the only party committed to the equal distribution of the country's wealth, and that until such a government is in power, no permanent solution can be found, not only for the teachers, but for the masses.

"Without such a government, rising costs will easily eat up all the raises, and the teachers will have to strike again and again," Vanguard said. "All of the other parties that are swarming around the BUT like buzzards, the FNDM, the SDP, etc. are committed to exactly the same system as Pindling.

"They are not committed to serving the masses but capital. Their lives, their writings, their statements, their actions all testify to this. Teachers, the Bahamian working-class have been used before, let us endeavour not to be used again," Vanguard urged.

Vanguard said it regards the demands of the teachers as legitimate demands of the oppressed Bahamian worker and their needs are so pressing that they do not need any "mediators" in the form of politicians or political parties to make their case.

Vanguard said the last thing the teachers need is for Prime Minister Lynden Pindling and the PLP to be able to argue that the strike is "politically inspired."

"This would give the PLP the kind of weaponry they need to evade facing the wrath of the workers as they have done since 1967," said Vanguard.

Vanguard said the correct posture for any serious political party is to go among the masses, in the streets and in their homes, to convince them of the justness of the teachers' cause, and the necessity for the changes they are asking for, if their children are to get a proper education.

Vanguard said all Bahamians, especially the working-class, are obligated to support the teachers. It said not only are the teachers' demands just, but are reminiscent of the demands that most Bahamians have against the "corrupt, over-paid and neo-colonial Pindling Government."

Vanguard asked: "Why should their children attend expensive schools abroad at your expense, while toilets fail to function at many public schools? Why should teachers serve in schools with leaky roofs, when politicians can afford mansions? Why should teachers live from pay-day to pay-day while the rich get richer and the purported surpluses get bigger?

Outside Recruitment Charge

Nassau THE TRIBUNE in English 19 Jan 81 p 1

[Article by Gladstone Thurston: "Carib Teachers To Break Strike?"]

[Excerpt] The Government intends to recruit Caribbean teachers to break the Bahamas Union of Teachers (BUT) strike that closed all Ministry of Education schools now going into its third week.

BUT secretary-general A. Leonard Archer told a meeting this morning that over the weekend that report was being circulated and, in order to prevent that action on behalf of the Government, he has cabled Mr J. Burns Bonadie of the Caribbean Congress of Labour.

The telegram read: "Teachers strike in Bahamas enters its third week today. Reports circulating in the Bahamas indicate that Government is considering employing Caribbean teachers to break strike. We would appreciate your assistance in preventing the recruitment of Caribbean teachers as strike breakers."

"If the Government is seriously considering this," Mr Archer told the meeting, "then they would have to answer the nation. How can they (Government) say they can't afford any more money and yet they are going to recruit more teachers?"

Up to this morning negotiations with Government have not resumed. The Government has in its possession a counterproposal submitted by the BUT last Thursday. It is anticipated that the counter proposal will be discussed by Cabinet tomorrow.

"We should get a response from them by tomorrow," Mr Archer said. "The response will determine the action that we will take. The Government was hoping that over the weekend your spirits would have been broken."

"No! No!" cried the teachers who packed A. F. Adderley Gym this morning.

So as to counteract Government propaganda that students taking GCE and BJC exams in June may be penalised, through no fault of their own, Mr Archer suggested the teachers set up classes away from Ministry of Education schools and assist the students free of charge.

"We are prepared to make up the time lost to the students in this country because we care for them," Mr Archer said. "It is not the teachers who are keeping the schools closed, it is the Government."

Among support received by the teachers was that of the Bahamas Taxi Cab Union which also donated \$400 to the BUT strike fund. In a letter to the BUT, the taxi cab union said that contrary to ZNS reports that they have softened, "we are still giving you our support."

And the Bahamas Christian Council is expected to meet with Prime Minister Lynden Pindling sometime today to discuss the crisis, teachers were informed. Mr Archer said the Council didn't want to take sides but said that no member of the Council thought the demands made by the teachers were unreasonable.

In another development Prime Minister Pindling and members of his Cabinet have held meetings in their constituencies in an attempt to "poison the minds of the people against the teachers," a BUT task force to the islands reported.

According to reports, Education Minister Darrell Rolle held a mass rally in Mangrove Cay Friday night "and tried to brainwash the parents against the teachers," the meeting was told. "It was my opinion that the Minister of Education made a conscious attempt to turn the parents against the teachers."

LABOR PROBLEMS GROW IN WAKE OF TEACHERS STRIKE

Construction Stoppage

Nassau THE TRIBUNE in English 5 Jan 81 p 1

[Excerpt] About fifty members of the Construction and Civil Engineering Union went on strike at a major job site this morning, becoming the second union to stage industrial action against employers today.

However, an official of the union said the strike is not in solidarity with the Bahamas Union of Teachers who also went on strike today.

Union shop steward David Miller said that the strike, which began at 8 am at the Cavalier Construction Company on East Bay Street, was called by the union in connection with a strike vote the union took on December 1.

He said that the strike could go on all day and much longer, but was unable to say whether any other job sites were hit by similar strike action.

Spreading Walkoffs

Nassau THE TRIBUNE in English 7 Jan 81 pp 1, 8

[Excerpt] The three-day-old construction union strike spread today to two other job sites in Centreville with more expected by the end of the day, a union source said today.

The source also said that an arbitration meeting yesterday resulted in another meeting being scheduled for Saturday morning at the Ministry of Labour between the Union and the Bahamas Contractors Association.

During the meeting, called in an attempt to restore peace to the strike-torn construction industry, arbitration tribunal chairman, Clement J. Pinder was replaced by attorney Winston Saunders.

"He warned us that no public statements must be made by anyone who is a part of the dispute," the source said. "That meeting set the tune for the real meeting on Saturday morning at 10 am at the Ministry of Labour.

"However," said the source, "the strike continues until we are more positive that the deliberations are going to proceed in a better atmosphere."

The source said an attempt was made by the union and contractors during the arbitration "to get something rolling, but it did not materialize."

Continued Strikes

Nassau THE TRIBUNE in English 9 Jan 81 p 1

[Article by Athena Damianos: "Building Strikers Stay Off"]

[Text] The strike against three major construction companies entered the fourth day today with the union and Contractors Association no nearer to reaching an agreement.

With the exception of the \$5.5 million downtown Market Range where workers resumed work today, building sites remained inactive at the Grand Hotel, Britannia Beach Hotel and the Paradise Island (condominium) development phase one, all on Paradise Island, and at Bacardi plant, Ghuanahani Village, Banco Ambrosiano (next to Brown's Boat Basin), the Imperial Life Centre on Collins Avenue and a medical clinic, also on Collins Avenue.

Those companies affected by the strike are Cavalier Construction, Mosko's and Sunco.

An executive from one of the companies said that David Knowles, president of the Bahamas Hotel, Catering and Allied Workers Union, was partly to blame for the strike because he was trying to fashion the construction workers contract after that of the hotel workers.

"We recognize that the construction workers should get paid more, but we don't feel they should get the fringe benefits of the hotel workers who get lower salaries," said the executive, who spoke on condition that his name would not be used.

"The (construction) union president so far has not had any argument about wages. He hasn't rejected our proposals because we haven't even reached that stage yet. We have been discussing benefits for three months."

The executive said that hotel and construction were two totally different industries and it would be unrealistic to offer a builder on a short-term contract holiday benefits.

"We're in favour of the men getting a good wage. What we don't like is being saddled with a lot of working conditions that have been made up on the advice of the president of the hotel union," he said.

A meeting has been set for Saturday between the union, Contractors Association and arbitration tribunal. Until then the strike is likely to continue.

BPSU Charges

Nassau THE TRIBUNE in English 9 Jan 81 p 1

[Text] The Bahamas Public Services Union claims that in a statement made by Deputy Prime Minister Arthur Hanna Wednesday, Mr Hanna deliberately tried to demoralize the union and damage the credibility of its executives.

The BPSU said yesterday it is appalled at the attempted defamation of its character and integrity by the skilful manipulation of the facts in Mr Hanna's communication.

The union was replying to Mr Hanna's statement that the BPSU only wanted \$4 million in salary increases for its members, whereas Government had offered \$11 million.

Mr Hanna's remarks followed Monday's condemnation by the BPSU of "inferences" made by Prime Minister Lynden Pindling in reply to the union's rejection of Government's salary offer to civil servants, the union claims Mr Pindling was "misinformed."

In reply, Mr Hanna told the union that he was the one responsible for giving Mr Pindling the information that a general arrangement was reached on virtually all matters in the dispute. Mr Hanna said the information he gave Mr Pindling was "correct."

"The Bahamas Public Services Union is appalled at the attempted defamation of its character and integrity which the Deputy Prime Minister's recent press release very subtly attempted to do," the BPSU said in its statement.

"While there are elements of fact in his communication, the twisted and skilful manipulation of the facts is viewed as a deliberate attempt to demoralize our union and damage the credibility of union executives," BPSU said.

In view of this, the union presented "concisely the facts as they are and said it stands by its claim of authenticity.

"Members will remember that in the last salary negotiations of 1980, the overall figure was 12 million dollars. Government claimed at that time only \$8.6 million was available. The union accepted this with the understanding that the \$4 million will be available in January, 1981," the union said.

It said that at a general meeting of the union in November, 1980, members requested that the executives communicate with Mr Hanna and remind him of his gentleman's agreement for \$4 million as promised for January, 1981.

The Union said its letter of November 28 complied with the members wishes and is in fact the letter mentioned in Mr Hanna's press release.

"The union, mandated by its members was simply laying claim to the balance of an amount that had already been negotiated for and agreed to," it said.

"The Bahamas Public Services Union dislikes having to refer to verbal statements but such is the case, whereby the Deputy Prime Minister indicated to the president of the BPSU in a telephone conversation that Government was prepared to do better than \$4 million," the union said.

It pointed out that this suggestion prompted the union to present a new proposal which embodied the \$4 million and amounted to \$15 million.

At a meeting with Mr Hanna on December 12, 1980, he stated that it was difficult for Government to commit the amount requested at this time in view of the other commitments envisaged.

"He promised to discuss our proposal with his colleagues. The meeting concluded with the Deputy Prime Minister's promise of another meeting early in the New Year," said the union's statement.

On January 2, 1981, the union met with Mr Hanna, who presented figures approximated on the \$8.6 million proposed in the budget speech.

"The atmosphere of the meeting was cordial," the union said. "Points of view were projected by both sides. The meeting concluded. At no time did the union agree to the proposal put forth by the Deputy Prime Minister."

The union said that on the question of a joint statement, it requested Mr Hanna to withhold any announcement pertaining to the proposed salary increase until such time as the executives had transmitted the proposal to its membership for discussion, acceptance or rejection.

Building Workers' Return

Nassau THE TRIBUNE in English 12 Jan 81 p 1

[Text] Construction workers in New Providence and Paradise Island returned to work at various job sites this morning as union and contractors met in another arbitration meeting to hammer out their points of dispute.

The return to work by construction workers ended a week-long strike that began last week Monday following a deadlock in contract negotiations between the Construction and Civil Engineering Union and the Bahamas Contractors Association.

Arbitration Tribunal Chairman, attorney Winston Saunders, said today that "a lot of progress has been made" in all-day talks on Saturday and this morning at the Ministry of Labour. Another meeting was planned for 4:30 pm today.

"I am very hopeful that something of a good solution will evolve," said Mr Saunders, who replaced Mr Clement Pinder as Chairman after the workers protested his appointment.

At Saturday's meeting, both parties agreed to expedite matters of dispute. The union agreed to instruct its members to return to work while the contractors promised not to victimize any worker.

More than 600 workers took part in the five-day strike against the Grand Hotel, Britannia Beach extension, Paradise Island Condominiums, Ambrosiano House, Imperial Life Centre and the Market Plaza.

Offer to BPSU

Nassau THE TRIBUNE in English 13 Jan 81 p 1

[Article by Anthony Forbes: "BPSU Studying Govt's New Offer"]

[Text] Executives of the Bahamas Public Services Union were today studying the Government's latest salary proposals while members of the Bahamas Union of Teachers were staging a massive demonstration in front of the Cabinet Office on Bay Street.

Mr Arlington Miller, president of the BPSU, the country's largest union that comprises most of the civil service, said his executives were meeting at the union's headquarters and afterwards will take it to the members for their approval.

However, he did not say whether they were satisfied with the Government's offer which was released by the Department of Public Personnel late yesterday evening. (Full text on page 4.)

Government last night released its "final" and "revised" proposal which will cost Government almost \$20 million in wage increases for the public service during 1980 and 1981.

"Taking all factors and circumstances into account, the Government feels that it is able to put forward a revised position," wrote Mrs Lois Symonette, Director of Public Personnel.

"It regrets that it is unable to go any further, without causing serious harm to the overall public welfare," Government said in a statement released through the Department of Public Personnel.

Letters detailing the revised salary proposal by Government were sent to E. K. Minnis, Bahamas Union of Teachers president; Arlington Miller president of the Bahamas Public Service Union; and David Knowles, Trade Union Congress president.

The Government's new proposals covered the entire civil service, including the teachers' policemen and nurses.

The proposal did not differ much from the financial section of a tentative agreement agreed between the BUT and Government on Sunday as teachers were offered across the board increases ranging from \$1,250 to \$1,050 per year.

For other public officers Government is offering pay hikes ranging from \$800 to \$1,000 annually. Its original \$8.6 million pay package ranged from \$700 to \$900.

Also government said the existing increments would be paid to all public officers including teachers, in 1981 and the new increments of \$250 to \$500 would be paid with effect from January 1, 1982.

"It should be evident by now that the Government has endeavoured to be fair and reasonable to all officers in the public service," the Director of Public Personnel, Lois Symonette, wrote BUT, BPSU and TUC leaders.

"Indeed, it must be emphasised that when the above proposals are implemented, almost \$20 million would have been spent on salaries increases in the public service in 1980 and 1981," she wrote.

"In all good conscience I ask you to accept this fair offer which the Government is prepared to implement immediately. I request that you put it forward to your members at the earliest opportunity," she added.

Government's latest offer yesterday came after it rejected a tentative agreement reached with the Bahamas Union of Teachers on Sunday following a week-long strike that closed nearly all Government schools in the country.

Worker Sick-Outs

Nassau THE TRIBUNE in English 14 Jan 81 p 1

[Article by Athena Damianos: "Garbage Men on a Sickout"]

[Text] Workers at the Blue Hill Road garbage depot called in sick for the second day today. But it could not be confirmed whether the action was taken in support of striking teachers.

Yesterday Water and Sewerage Corporation workers also staged a sick-out. A worker said the action was taken in support of the teachers.

Glen Archer, director of Environmental Health Services, confirmed that "there were a large number of absentees yesterday. It was an unusual circumstance for us," he added.

Although "an unusual" number of people didn't show up for work today, there were more in than there were yesterday, he said.

Mr Archer could not say how many workers called in sick yesterday, but he said it was probably less than half.

"It did hamper us a bit, but we're still able to carry out our service," he said. "If it lasts for more than two days, we'd be concerned. Some people are out today, but I think we had a reduction."

Mr Archer said he didn't know whether the sick-out was in support of the teachers' struggle for better pay and working conditions. "The Ministry is looking into this matter, trying to find out what the situation is."

The garbage workers are members of a union led by Sir Randol Fawkes. Sir Randol has been active in the teachers strike.

Mr Archer suggested THE TRIBUNE call Health permanent secretary Harold Munnings for additional information. Mr Munnings was in a meeting and up until press time had not returned the call.

A union official at the Water and Sewerage department said about half of the workers at the Corporation called in sick yesterday to show their support for the teachers. He said everything was back to normal today.

Meanwhile, workers at the Broadcasting Corporation of the Bahamas and the Bahamas Telecommunications Corporation ended a two day sick-out today.

Their union president, Charles Bethel, said the workers used the two days sick leave they are entitled to every month to show their support for the teachers.

CSO: 3025

BRIEFS

BUTLER WITH OPPOSITION--Former House Speaker Arlington Butler Sunday joined the Free National Democratic Movement, warning of a "one-party system" if the opposition is not rejuvenated and reunified. "We don't want to be in a position where one party is eliminated altogether--a one party system," said Mr Butler, the third prominent opposition politician to join the revitalized FNDM within a week. Mr Butler's move to the FNDM follows those of Citizens Party members and Leader George Wilson last Thursday, and outspoken former MP and Senator Edmund Moxey last Friday. The swing to the FNDM, the minority opposition in the House of Assembly by the three opposition politicians nearly completed the Accord reached in December, 1977, between opposition political leaders. [as published] It is expected that the other party to the Accord, former Cat Island MP, Oscar Johnson and former Grants Town MP, Arthur Foulkes, may follow in the footsteps of Wilson, Moxey and Butler. It is understood that Senator David Thompson of the Official Opposition, Social Democratic Party, is a signatory to the Accord. [Forbes] [Excerpts] [Nassau THE TRIBUNE in English 28 Dec 80 p 1]

CSO: 3025

OPPOSITION DISMISSES TWO SENATORS, NAMES REPLACEMENTS

Bridgetown SUNDAY ADVOCATE-NEWS in English 21 Dec 80 p 1

[Text]

Opposition Democratic Labour Party (DLP) Leader, Errol Barrow, has asked the Governor-General to revoke the appointments of its two Senators in the Upper House of Parliament who voted for an increase in seats in the lower chamber, against the wishes of the party.

The DLP has vigorously protested the move to increase House of Assembly seats from 24 to 27 and the consequent adjustment of some of the constituency boundaries. Mr Barrow, a former Prime Minister, has described it as an "unvarnished attempt to destroy democracy in Barbados."

The House passed the motion Tuesday without an opposition vote. The following day, in the Senate, Opposition members John Connell and Dennis Hunte sided with the Government.

Mr Barrow's announcement of their sacking was made at a public meeting last night and confirmed to CANA yesterday by his deputy, Erskine Sandiford, a former Education Minister.

In his letter, the DLP leader said that the revocations should be effective today or at the earliest opportunity. The senators' replacements are to be Neville a Minister in a previous administration, and Warwick Franklyn, a former Chief Government Land Valuation Officer. Both will be

DLP candidates in the general elections due next year.

Connell and Hunte were not expected to contest the poll. Connell, a lawyer, failed in his bid to represent the DLP in a rural constituency, while Hunte, who lost by fewer than 10 votes in the 1978 poll, was apparently not considered this time.

Connell said he did see the seat increase as a national issue and challenged the DLP — if re-elected to power — to revert to 24 seats.

Mr Barrow said last night that he was not forewarned of the move by the only two DLP senators, Mr. Sandiford told CANA.

Former DLP Trade Minister Branford Taitt Friday viewed the move by the senators as an indication that the DLP was a democratic party. The Opposition MP said that Press reports of the statements by Connell and Hunte were not in any way inconsistent with the position of the party.

It was the second occasion this year that there was a split in the DLP vote on a major issue. The first was on increases in salaries given to MPs last month.

Mr Sandiford was one of two MPs who defied the DLP executive and voted for the salary raises.

He explained yesterday that there were important differences between the two. He said that traditionally free expression had been allowed on salaries but the increase in House seats affected the whole system of government and was more fundamental.

TRADE BALANCE WITH CANADA WORSENS IN 1980

Bridgetown ADVOCATE-NEWS in English 5 Jan 81 p 2

[Text]

Barbados' unfavourable trade balance with Canada has continued to grow, according to figures released by the Central Bank.

The visible trade gap between the two countries climbed to Bds \$32 million in the first eight months of 1980, after being pegged at Bds \$27.1 million for the January-August period the previous year, according to the Bank's statistics.

But on the surface, trade between the two has been improving, each registering an increase in the value of exports.

The figures have been released just before the Canadian Secretary of State for External Affairs, Dr. Mark MacGuigan, is due to begin a brief official visit to Barbados. Dr. MacGuigan arrives in Barbados next Sunday.

But whether or not trade will dominate talks between Dr. MacGuigan and the Barbados Government during the January 11-14 visit is uncertain.

According to an agenda released here, Dr. MacGuigan is scheduled to hold talks with Prime Minister Mr. Tom Adams, Foreign Minister Mr. Henry Forde and a number of other Government officials. He

will also visit St. Kitts-Nevis and Jamaica.

In the first eight months of 1980, Barbados imported Bds \$44.2 million worth of Canadian goods. It exports totalled Bds \$12.2 million.

In the first eight months of 1979, Barbados' exports to Canada were valued at Bds \$16.2 million and imports at Bds \$37.3 million.

Figures for the last four months of 1980 are unavailable. Total imports from Canada in 1979 totalled Bds \$64.3 million and exports Bds \$16 million.

The unfavourable balance of trade has been the picture for the past five years. In 1975 the value of Barbados' imports from Canada stood at Bds \$38.1 million, with exports at Bds 12.7 million.

Barbados' exports include molasses, protective equipment, rum, clothing, medical and pharmaceutical products, and electronic components.

Imports from Canada include dried fish, beef, fruit juice concentrates, fabrics, generators and their parts, telephone apparatus and equipment, nuts and bolts, and sheets of metal.

PRIME MINISTER OUTLINES PLANS TO UPGRADE TOURISM

Bridgetown SUNDAY ADVOCATE-NEWS in English 21 Dec 80 p 11

(Excerpt)

Deliberate action will be taken to expand the range and quality of tourist attractions and services, improve tourism products, encourage longer stays and increase tourist expenditure in the economy.

This was stated by Prime Minister Tom Adams in an address at the re-opening of the Rockley Resort Hotel's golf course, Rockley, last Saturday. The Prime Minister said that already some progress had been made in this direction with the opening of the Underwater Park at Folkestone, St. James, which offers to the visitor an opportunity to view the different types of marine life around our shores, and also provides a haven for snorkelling and scuba diving, jet skiing and motor boating.

He said there are also plans to landscape the original landing site of the English settlers and to construct a new restaurant at the old Surf-side site, the intention being to transform the whole area from Huletown to Folkestone into an area for relaxation, recreation and education for Barbadians and tourists alike.

He added that in addition, it is expected that the Harrison's Cave will be opened early in the new year, providing yet another area of attraction and education.

The Prime Minister continued that the Government has also moved to increase the supply of accommodation directly and through the Barbados Development Bank, indirectly. Construction of a 308-room complex is in progress at Heywoods in St. Peter. The project will be owned by a Government Corporation and the hotels and apartments will be leased to Barbadians.

Mr. Adams noted that the Barbados Development Bank has been a major source of lending to the tourism sector with considerable lending not only for hotels in the period 1977-1980, but for many ancillary projects including vehicles for taxis, hired cars and car rentals, boats for charter tours and the expansion of a musical band.

He thought that the brief outline indicated that Barbados offered a wide range of facilities to tourists, but said we must not become complacent.

Efforts noted

Prime Minister Tom Adams said that the Government fully

appreciated the efforts which some hoteliers have already made towards utilising solar energy as a means of reducing running costs.

The Prime Minister was delivering the feature address at the opening of the nine-hole golf course at the Rockley Resort Hotel, Rockley, last Saturday.

Mr. Adams said that the problems created by the energy crisis have long-term as well as short-term effects on our tourist industry, whose plant in tropical countries has generally been designed on an assumption of permanently cheap energy sources.

He added that we must therefore devise ways and means of keeping running costs down and the Government appreciated the efforts of those hoteliers in utilising solar energy.

As part of the overall plan to encourage the use of alternative sources of energy, the Prime Minister said the Government is currently in the process of negotiating a global loan from the Inter-American Development Bank to the Barbados Development Bank to ensure that financial assistance can be made available to hoteliers to effect the installation of solar equipment.

GLITTER BAY TOURIST COMPLEX TO BE READY BY SUMMER '81

Bridgetown ADVOCATE-NEWS in English 31 Dec 80 p 2

[Article by Andrew Sealy]

[Text]

The construction of the first phase of the Glitter Bay complex in St. James began last March, and is expected to be open for business next summer.

This was revealed last week by a spokesman for the resort, who said that work on the project has been going according to schedule. When completed, Glitter Bay is projected to be one of the top resorts in the Caribbean, accommodating some 400 guests on its 10 acre site.

When operation begins later next year, there will be 40 lettable rooms available, and it is expected that this number will be more than doubled before the end of the following winter season, when phase two of the project is scheduled to be completed.

At Glitter Bay, a portion of the accommodation is being sold to individuals and companies under the island's Condominium Law. It is understood that the first phase containing 21 units has now been constructed to be sold, and that locals have got the majority of these.

The developers are now in the process of marketing the second phase, and it is planned that only a section of the phase will be sold on the condominium basis. Some of the accommodation to be constructed may be leased or otherwise disposed of on a time-sharing basis.

Time-sharing, is a relatively new concept in the resort industry. It offers an opportunity for individuals to acquire the right of occupancy for a predetermined period in perpetuity, or for a specified period, depending on the legal method being used.

In Barbados, like many other popular resort destinations, the concept of "timesharing" is catching on very quickly, and it is reported that a number of hotels other than Glitter Bay are currently researching this type of method of filling their rooms. To the individual, it seems to guarantee the accommodation of their choice every year, while the hotelier is at the same time assured of good occupancy without having to sustain an on-going marketing programme.

It is understood that with most time-sharing resorts, time in one resort may be exchanged with another elsewhere in the world by using the services of an international exchange organisation, thus giving individuals maximum vacation flexibility.

The Glitter Bay building programme is currently employing about 100 people, and it is expected that a similar number will find permanent employment when the operation moves into service. Some 300 employees are expected to find permanent employment when the project is completed.

BRIEFS

HOTEL COMPLEX--The ground-breaking ceremony of the Heywoods Holiday Complex in St. Peter takes place today. Minister of Tourism, Mr. H. B. St. John will perform the ceremony to mark the start of construction of the Bds. \$34.4 million project. At the Complex, Government will be providing beach facilities as well as hotel blocks to be leased to Barbadian operators. The project will involve the building of seven small hotels by an all-Barbadian company which will be partly owned by Government. Some 308 rooms are expected to be built on 30 acres of land, and it is expected that some 450 Barbadians will find direct employment in the scheme. The individually operated hotels will, through planned and co-ordinated development, share certain common facilities including central management and marketing, dining and entertainment facilities, swimming pool facilities, sports, including tennis, golf and watersports, garbage collection, laundry, mini-mart, bulk purchase and security among other things. In this way, the individual operators will preserve their individuality in decor, service and other aspects characteristic of small hotels, while joining together in those areas where economies of scale will lead to greater economy, better service and higher profits. [Text] [Bridgetown ADVOCATE-NEWS in English 5 Jan 81 p 1]

CSO: 3025

NEWSPAPER HAILS STRONG U.S. FOREIGN POLICY

PY111932 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 1 Feb 81 p 1

[Editorial: "Strong Diplomacy"]

[Text] After the pronouncements made by President Reagan and Secretary of State Haig, the new U.S. diplomacy is beginning to take shape.

There are no great surprises as far as subjects and objectives are concerned. Nevertheless, now that Reagan no longer speaks in his own name or on behalf of the Republican Party but in the name of the United States, each word spoken by him or by the executor of his foreign policy acquires special force: it has greater impact.

To understand the new position we must first discuss the apparent choice between defense of human rights and fighting terrorism.

To study the question only as a change of priorities, although this change may be a fact, does not lead to the essence of the question.

The so-called human rights policy is deactivated not because it may be opposed to fighting terrorism but because it did not work out--first because being selective it maintained a note of hypocrisy, which invalidated it; and then because it inevitably represented interference in the domestic affairs of other countries. If the United States cannot and must not become the police of the world--as Washington has intended during the cold war--neither has the United States been given the right to become the judge of the world.

It is indispensable to defend human rights, but a country with national interests to protect has absolutely no right to impose that policy on other countries.

Terrorism is a question of a different nature. All countries and all governments ought to fight it, precisely because terrorism seeks to overthrow the international order to which all countries and all governments belong. And the United States must share the responsibility of participating in this struggle with the effort and resources appropriate to its position as a great power.

President Reagan is doing just this in denouncing Soviet support to international terrorism, using a particularly strong language, a tone which may even alarm an unprepared observer.

The style is part of the game, however. What the new president is doing is giving, with rhetoric that is part of his political personality, a message to Moscow. In other words: coexistence is always possible, and all negotiations must continue, but new premises have been put on the table. Terrorism, no. This is a kind of message which cannot be transmitted without banging the table with one's fist.

The Kremlin will understand--although the tone of its reply, by obligation, may be equally harsh--that a cooling of international tensions must be felt in the medium term. The danger of conflict is reduced when persons and world powers know exactly whom they are dealing with.

Moreover, the hardening of the United States does not represent only a diplomatic strategy. It also represents the thinking of President Reagan and of millions of U.S. citizens who voted for him. And since it is not possible to adopt a hard policy only half way, there are risks, including that of pushing toward communism regimes which a more liberal U.S. policy would allow to remain in a third position--which could be valid and useful for the balance of power in the world. And there is also the danger of artificially supporting antidemocratic regimes, under the pretext of serving circumstantial interests of the West.

With all this, we must recognize now that a world in which the United States establishes its national objectives clearly and strongly is closer to sanity and further away from chaos.

CSO: 3001

PAPER CRITICIZES U.S. SPOKESMAN'S WORDS ON CUBA

PY112016 Rio de Janeiro JORNAL DO BRASIL in Portuguese 3 Feb 81 p 10

[Editorial: "An Out-of-Tune Diplomatic Voice"]

[Text] Refined and in tune in its important matters, the foreign policy that is emerging during the first days of the Republican government in Washington needs to be tuned in specific sectors. Regarding America south of the Rio Grande, this is what can be understood from the statements made by advisers who will have an important role in defining Reagan's policy for our continent. An article published in the MIAMI HERALD indicates that when Roger Fontaine, former professor at the Center for Strategic Studies at Georgetown University, was reviewing Latin America during a meeting of the National Security Council, he said that "Castro's regime cannot continue to be systematically hostile toward the United States without paying a price, a very high price." He then went on to propose that Washington's policy regarding Havana should in the long term be that of "nothing less than the end of the Marxist-Leninist regime in Cuba, without resorting to war, subversion or embargoes."

Thus, Mr Fontaine starts off by perpetuating an error that the Republicans correctly identified in the Carter policy: that of an open diplomacy drafted in a public park. The National Security Council adviser may have wanted to introduce into his area the strong frankness with which the State Department and the presidency itself defined their intentions regarding foreign policy. Meanwhile, he has confused objectives and mechanisms. When President Reagan and General Haig use with much boldness the various possibilities that rhetoric gives, they are not implementing diplomacy in public: relations between the United States and the USSR are today sufficiently complex that a hot line directly links the Kremlin and the White House, and until a few days ago the Soviet ambassador in Washington had direct access to the garage of the State Department.

Applying the same type of rhetoric to Cuba is like gunning for a rabbit with a cannon. There is now no need for Cuba to be punished for its hostility toward the United States. Fidel's island is today a country that is economically unviable, and it has lost in every way its political independence

due to its ties with Moscow, which it cannot throw off. (A few years behind the times, Fidel Castro has recently cast a greedy glance at Brazilian development.) The Cuban revolution has been unexportable for the rest of the continent, a fact that will not be altered no matter what the outcome of crises such as Nicaragua and El Salvador, where the expansion of the tragedy is already denouncing its exceptional nature. Regarding the Cuban troops in Africa, they are an episode of Soviet diplomacy and not, once again, the policy of Cuba, which is mortgaged to the USSR.

Therefore, strong rhetoric sits well with a Reagan or a Haig. In the hands of Mr Fontaine it appears to be bravado. An effect contrary to that intended may be achieved. The island that was being consumed by its own limitations--the sea of difficulties to which we have referred--would be allowed to assume, from one moment to another, epic proportions: it would again become the American Stalingrad [word indistinct] David fighting Goliath.

Despite this aspect, Cuba is a member, whether for good or for bad, of the American community and family matters must be resolved within the family. Moreover, the isolation of Fidel's enclave was the best demonstration that the American community was pragmatically dealing efficiently with the matter, while Cuba was showing signs of being a neighbor that could not be confided in. The offensive which is implicit in Mr Fontaine's words disregards the attitude that has been adopted by this same community, and it would give weakened Castroism all the necessary arguments for its transformation into the victim of an unusual aggression.

CSO: 3001

BRIEFS

BANANA PROBLEMS--Roseau, Dominica, Wednesday, (CANA)--General Manager of the Banana Growers Association, Eddison James has warned farmers that buyers of Dominican bananas are reluctant to accept fruit from the island because of poor quality. Mr James' warning was contained in a letter circulated to banana growers here today. In it, he quoted from a letter received from Geest West Indies Limited, indicating that the quality of bananas shipped from Dominica in the past few weeks had declined sharply. The result had been a 12-sterling a tonne drop in the green market price of banana in Britain. One member among the four islands which make up the Windward Islands Banana Association (WINBAN) has already complained that all are suffering because of the low standard of Dominican fruit, Mr James said. He acknowledged that transportation of bananas from fields to boxing plants was hazardous because of poor road conditions, but he called for greater care to ensure good quality. "The threat to this important industry...must be taken seriously," Mr James declared, in urging farmers to help improve the quality of fruit delivered to the reception depot. Dominican agriculture and road system were badly hit by hurricanes David and Allen in 1979 and 1980. [Text] [Bridgetown ADVOCATE-NEWS in English 1 Jan 81 p 3]

CSO: 3025

CIA SUBVERSION EFFORTS SEEN BEHIND STRIKE ATTEMPTS

St. George's FREE WEST INDIAN in English 10 Jan 81 p 3

[Text] Through the efforts of patriotic forces within the labour movement, significant advances were made over the past 10 days in the interests of the poor and working people, despite attempts by some elements bent on subverting the Revolution.

On January 1, Progressive dockworkers and other members of the community in St. George's offloaded a consignment of free milk, after leaders of the Seamen and Waterfront Workers' Union (SWWU) had called a sudden strike, that would have left the milk to spoil.

A few days later, the Grenada Banana Co-operative Society, after lengthy negotiations with Bank and General Workers' Union (BGWU), agreed to pay a yearly bonus to extension workers in the banana industry.

On December 29, 1980, workers of the society went on strike in solidarity with 15 extension workers, whom the society had refused to give the usual yearly bonus the other workers get.

And last Thursday, the Grenada Telephone Co. Ltd. and BGWU signed the first collective agreement covering engineers and managerial employees.

Representing the company in the final session of negotia-

tions were director Ray Smith and general manager Ivor O'Brien. BGWU president Vincent Noel, with George Lashley, Martin Mason, Royston Phillip and James Lashley, represented the union.

The strike call on December 30, by senior SWWU officials, brought a sharp response from the People's Revolutionary government.

The PRG, in an official statement, said the half-million pounds of powdered milk sent for free distribution by the European Economic Community, had been anxiously awaited, especially by children and expectant mothers, because the free milk programme had been stalled for the past few months, because of a lack of milk.

"It came as a great shock to those people of St. George's, who discovered that this undemocratic action had been taken by some of the union leaders, without consulting the rank and file members of the union," said the PRG.

"Many dockworkers were so annoyed and disgusted by this strike call that they refused to be part of the strike action and even offered to assist in offloading this shipment," the statement continued.

Condemnation of the SWWU action also came from a number of progressive and revolutionary organisations, including the National Woman's Organisation (NWO), which offered its members' labour, if necessary, to offload the milk.

"The women of our country see this action by the leadership of the union as an irresponsible act against our children, our pregnant and nursing sisters, our elderly sisters and our poor and working women of Free Grenada," said the NWO.

The SWWU leaders had justified their strike call by claiming to have the right, not only to unload the cargo from the ship onto the docks, but also to carry the goods from the docks to the government warehouse.

However, under the terms of their contract with Grenada Shipping Agents, the union's only obligation is to offload the cargo onto the docks. It is then up to the receiver of the goods, (in this case the PRG) to move the cargo from the docks to a warehouse.

A special issue of the newspaper "Workers' Voice" hit the streets of St. George's last Thursday with the headline: "STOP the Docks Mafia".

It said many workers are still baffled about why the SWWU leaders preferred to call a strike rather than offload the big shipment of free milk for the poor and working people of Grenada.

The paper said that some "Mafia-type" elements in the SWWU leadership, "some of whom are trained by the CIA are to blame for this action.

"Can we forget that in 1974, just as Gairy was about to fall, these same elements called off the strike and kept Gairy in power?", asked "Workers' Voice".

"They called off the strike and kept Gairy in power

against the wishes of the majority of dockworkers after all the tears, blood and sacrifices of Grenadian workers, farmers businessmen and people generally.

The newspaper accused the "Dock Mafia" of corruption, of accepting CIA "blood money" and of counter-revolutionary actions. "When the equipment came for the International Airport in December 1979, the majority of dockworkers turned out and landed all the cargo free in record time. The Mafia did not even pass to see the equipment land," it charged.

In another development on the labour front, the manager of Key Universal Ltd, Robert Trees, earlier this week denied rumours that the company is about to close its Grenada operations.

The denial came in a meeting between Trees and officials of SWWU, which represents workers at the company.

Confirmation of a 12½ per cent wage increase from this month was also discussed, as was worker productivity, punctuality, absenteeism and strained relations between workers and supervisors.

Long-time observers of the labour movement in Grenada are convinced that the SWWU leaders intended to gain political mileage from their strike call. They note that the "Dock Mafia's" motive was to make the boat leave Grenada with the milk, thereby embarrassing the PRG, denying our people free milk and ultimately destroying a very popular programme of the Revolution.

More and more patriots are now calling for this "Dock Mafia" to be put under maners by the Revolution. The people demand a stop to those who want to use dockworkers for their own counter-revolutionary political aims, as was done in Chile in 1973, and as Stanley Roberts and Curtis Stuart tried to use the electricity workers at the power station in November 1979.

"The same blood money that caused thousands of workers in Chile to be murdered, is the same money from the American Institute of Free Labour Development that's paying Stanley Roberts, a leader of the "Dock Mafia", said one dockworker.

EDITORIAL NOTES PROGRESS, THREAT FROM MULTINATIONALS

St. George's FREE WEST INDIAN in English 20 Dec 80 p 4

[Text]

THIS is only the second Christmas the people of Grenada and the People's Revolutionary Government are enjoying together, in FreeGrenada.

This, it is said, is the season to be jolly, for peace and goodwill, exchanging gifts and making merry with food and drink a-plenty.

But peace, food and gifts do not fall freely from Heaven. They are produced and paid for by man.

In the past year, the people and the PRG have exchanged many gifts. The PRG has given money, materials and interest. And Grenada has benefitted from better houses, roads, schools, health clinics, community centres, industrial plants and productive farm lands.

Gifts have come to Grenada from its new friends all over the world, from countries such as Cuba, Venezuela, Libya, Iraq and Hungary, from international and regional organisations such as the Organisation of American States (OAS) and from organised supporters and individual well-wishers throughout the hemisphere.

The projects and equipment they have funded or donated have provided more services, created more jobs, kept more money circulating and, therefore, provided the extra cash for the pears, wine and dolls, this Christmas.

The land-reform programme is putting on the table more meat, fruits, and vegetables; the agro-industries local hams, salted fish, tinned juices and preserves.

Various training programmes are giving us skilled work-mates and offspring; the Centre for Popular Education is turning out people who can now read and write greeting cards themselves.

The country is caught up in an expansive mood of moving forward towards a definite goal, of hope in the future, of pride in achievement.

Emulation and worker of the year awards have helped underline that pride and given new encouragement to individual initiative, creativity and conscientiousness.

It is indeed a time for showing appreciation and love.

But while we sing "Peaceful night, all is bright", let us not forget there are those around us, and in our midst, who do not wish us peace and prosperity.

There are those who bear us no love or goodwill, who do not share our joys and sorrows, and who, in fact, are awaiting the chance to cause us more grief.

They come bearing time-bombs left silently for our sisters and daughters, bullets whizzing towards the loving hearts of our sons and brothers. Their gifts to us are permanent injury, the early grave, and the destruction of our dreams.

It might be wise to reflect on who these people are and why they bear us, a warm friendly, good-natured people, such evil.

This region is dominated by a handful of large transnational corporations, whose main interest in our countries and our peoples is making money from us.

They want our natural products and our working time and energy on the cheap, to produce fancy goods to sell back at high prices. They want to lend us money at high interest rates and under stringent conditions. They want to put in little and take out a lot, as they do throughout the region.

Anytime a country attempts to break out of their parasitic stranglehold, as revolutionary Cuba did, they see it as an example to others, and therefore, as a threat to their continued power, luxury and pleasure.

They must, therefore, break that country's leaders, at any cost to life and limb. They came to Cheddi Jagan in Guyana, Michael Manley in Jamaica. They have no qualms about doing it to little Grenada.

When our country is once again dependent and securely in their grasp, it will once again be left forgotten, neglected and run down. And the brutality and torture will again be unleashed on any native who dares complain.

So this Christmas, as at any time, beware of strange smart men bearing promises.

Some will be just waiting till we get high and carefree on wine, feasting and song, to strike us down and stop the party suddenly.

BISHOP ADDRESSES CONFERENCE OF CARIBBEAN WORKERS

St. George's FREE WEST INDIAN in English 10 Jan 81 pp 1, 5

[Article by Earl Bousquet]

[Text]

HUNDREDS of Grenadian working people joined leaders of the Grenada Revolution and representatives of progressive forces throughout the Caribbean, Latin America and the United States yesterday, at the opening of a three-day conference on "The Condition of Workers in the Caribbean" at the National Convention Centre (Dome), Grand Anse.

It was impossible to distinguish workers from delegates, as everyone participated enthusiastically.

Opening remarks were made by Prime Minister Maurice Bishop, and Tim Hector, chairman of the Antigua Caribbean Liberation Movement.

In a two-hour address, PM Bishop outlined the present international situation, and gave a balance-sheet account on the Revolution's achievements.

He revealed that several attempts in the past to convene such a conference of progressive opinion in the region, had been aborted. He hoped that this opportunity would be grasped to achieve the aims of the conference.

Reaction in the region and internationally, PM Bishop said, has become bolder and more aggressive with the election of Ronald Reagan as US President, as was manifested in the recent attacks against Grenada by Barbados Prime Minister Tom Adams.

Reaction, the PM said, wants to turn the clock back 200 years, to practise its outmoded economics.

"In light of this, we need to develop strategies and tactics that would ensure the continuation of the successes of the progressive forces, and to ensure that the recent setbacks are not turned to defeats."

Capitalism, he said, is "like a worn-out tube with over 25 patches, and cannot take any more. It is in deep crisis and desperate, and as such, it is a fallacy to disbelieve in military intervention against progressive forces today."

To underline the desperate nature of international capitalism today, PM Bishop quoted from a "secret" document prepared by Zbigniew Brzezinski for President Carter in March 1978, which

called for CIA and FBI operations to create and maintain division and confusion between the black population in the United States and progressive movements in Africa.

If they can put out such a document on a purely hypothetical situation, he said, they would do much more to turn back the course of events in the Caribbean, which US imperialism sees developing as the "number one trouble-spot" in the world.

Because of this view, the PM said, all progressive leaders in the region whether in or out of political office, are living in danger of assassination.

PM Bishop also spoke on the unity among Grenada, Cuba and Nicaragua. He said that imperialism is aware of the nature of this unity, and that is why they are trying to disrupt the strong relations between Grenada and Cuba.

However, he said, if Cuba is the beacon of the Caribbean revolution, and if Nicaragua is the beacon of the Central and Latin American revolution, then the Grenada Revolution

"is the hope of the struggling masses of the Caribbean".

The PM reiterated the firm anti-imperialist position of the Grenadian Revolution which, he said, "is firmly anti-imperialist, anti-racist, anti-fascist, anti-hegemonist anti-backyardist, and anti-Uncle Tomist."

"We do not believe we are in anybody's backyard, and we will not allow the reactionaries to make us abandon our principles or our relations with Cuba."

PM Bishop said that no revolution can call itself a revolution if it does not have the capacity to defend itself with guns, and in this respect, the Grenada Revolution stands true.

He pledged that it would continue to stand firm in its principles, to consolidate the revolutionary process, and to ensure that whenever any of those present returned to Grenada, they would find the revolution "safer, stronger and healthier".

He also said that the best way Grenada would assist other progressive forces in the region is by strengthening the revolution and ensuring that it goes forward.

Antigua's Tim Hector paid tribute to the presence of Guyana's former Premier, Dr. Cheddi Jagan, whom he called "the first Marxist political leader to be elected throughout the region." PM Bishop called Dr. Jagan "the Dean of the socialist movement in the region".

Hector also paid tribute to the historical significance of the Cuban revolution, which he said, "alerted the entire world

that the working people in the region are ready to take control of their destinies."

"The Cuban revolution is a mighty contribution to the emancipation of the people from class oppression," Hector said.

He concluded that "solidarity among the progressive forces is crucial for 1981."

In the afternoon, delegates from Jamaica, Guyana, Dominica, St. Vincent and Antigua presented reports on the progressive forces in the electoral process in their respective countries.

Samori Marksman of the Caribbean People's Alliance, co-sponsors with the New Jewel Movement of the conference, said Grenada was chosen as its site, "because, in view of imperialism's attempts to isolate Grenada and stifle the Revolution, and that one way of countering these moves was to bring these many fraternal groups to demonstrate their solidarity."

On January 20, when Reagan takes over the US presidency, he said, there will be a turning point in US policy towards the region. This was another reason for holding the conference in Grenada.

The conference was originally scheduled to take place in Jamaica a month before the October 30 election last year, but had to be cancelled because of the terrorism and CIA-sponsored violence there at the time.

Marksman said Grenada provided an example to progressive forces in the region, and this they had to reciprocate by stepping up whatever assistance they could

give to strengthen the Grenadian Revolution.

The conference continues with a number of workshops today, at the Grenada Boys' Secondary School (GBSS) in Tanteen.

Expected to arrive today is heroine of the US progressive forces, Angela Davis.

Thirty-one delegations from 26 countries are attending the conference. However, a number of delegations had not yet arrived yesterday, because they were stranded in Barbados, after being delayed by harassment from airport officials.

The conference ends tomorrow with a mass public rally at the GBSS auditorium, at which a number of overseas delegates will speak.

Among the Caribbean leaders present was Nesa Santana of the Puerto Rican Socialist Party. She said she was extremely impressed with the morning's proceedings and with PM Bishop's address.

"It was really inspiring. I am out of breath. This address must have inspired everyone struggling for liberation, starting with me," she said.

Leon Cornwall, central committee member of the NJM and a leader of the National Youth Organization, said he saw the morning's event as an example of Caribbean solidarity and unity and a recognition of the important role Grenada has to play in the liberation process in the Caribbean.

"We are united, as the Prime Minister said, although the imperialists try to divide us through colour, language, culture and other ethnic separations."

Dr Bill Riviere of the Dominica Liberation Movement said, the conference was extremely important. "Imperialism is desperate and so it is of extra importance that we organize ourselves and co-ordinate our efforts for defence.

"Imperialists always co-ordinate their attacks; we must co-ordinate our defence."

Dr Riviere said the opening was fantastic and that the PM's address "had really great content and gave me much hope for Dominica."

John Ventour, general secretary of the Commercial

and Industrial Workers' Union, said the workers' movement will be trying to find out more of the struggles of workers in the Caribbean and what strategies they are using to better the lot of working people in the region, "and what we could learn from it."

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BISHOP FORESEES MONETARY, ENERGY PROBLEMS IN 1981

St. George's FREE WEST INDIAN in English 10 Jan 81 p 7

[Text]

PRIME Minister Maurice Bishop has been outlining some of the major tasks ahead for the Grenadian people this year.

In his first message to the people of Grenada, Carriacou and Petit Martinique for 1981, PM Bishop said Grenadians must face the year with a greater degree of national unity, and collective determination to build a new Grenada, where peace, freedom, justice and good will abound.

This new year, he said, has to be approached with realistic expectations for the amount of national progress that can be made in 1981.

Simply maintaining the social and economic standards achieved in 1980, he said, "will be a struggle that will test our patriotism and revolutionary commitment, and will demand the fullness of our creative energies."

The hard reality, he said, is that the Grenadian economy is still dependent, to a large extent, on the economies of the major imperialist powers, who dictate how much they will pay for Grenada's raw materials, while fixing high prices on the

manufactured goods and foodstuffs Grenada imports.

This year, the PRG will be aiming to decrease this dependence. But since low prices will continue to be paid for Grenadian products this year, it will mean less foreign exchange, while the cost of imported oil is expected to rise by 50 per cent in 1981.

To fight these economic problems, PM Bishop said, Grenadians should be more conscious and knowledgeable about how the economy is structured, how it functions and how we can work together to strengthen it.

The primary task this year will be increasing agricultural production, he said, and that is why 1981 has been designated "Year of Agriculture and Agro-Industries".

It is necessary to produce more food for local use and for export, and to rehabilitate crops, while the thousands of acres of idle land must be brought under cultivation.

In conjunction with increase production, "we must also struggle for the complete eradication of corruption, guard against waste, and

strive towards higher levels of efficiency and production at workplaces and schools", he said.

The National Co-operative Development Agency (NACDA) is expected to play a great role this year, and PM Bishop has promised that the Revolution will continue to struggle for increased and better socio-economic conditions for agricultural workers and farmers, and for improved educational and informational services to fit their needs.

Another priority this year, he said, must be the organisation and mobilisation of the masses towards greater involvement in the Revolution's programmes.

He also noted that, as the enemies of peace were about to take power in the United States, Grenadians must prepare for the certainty that this country will be under further attack by reactionary forces and for the possibility of military aggression.

Under such circumstances, he said, it is imperative that the people be equipped and ready to defend the country by

joining and upgrading the quality of the People's Militia.

On the international front, the Prime Minister said that by continuing to maintain a principled, non-aligned foreign policy based on respect for national sovereignty and non-

interference in the domestic affairs of other nations, the PRG will continue peaceful and fruitful relations with all except fascist countries in the world.

Grenada will continue to play a positive role at all inter-

national fora, and will join other countries to continue to press for a new international economic and information order, and for an end to all forms of military aggression, intimidation, fascism, racism and backyardism, he concluded.

CSO: 3025

LEADERS EXHORT RADIO WORKERS, NOTE REGIONAL HOSTILITY

St. George's FREE WEST INDIAN in English 20 Dec 80 p 12

[Excerpt]

PRIME Minister Maurice Bishop, Deputy Prime Minister Bernard Coard, and Deputy Secretary for Information Colville "Kamau" McBarnette, all addressed the prize-giving ceremonies at Butler House and Radio Free Grenada, when workers of the year received their prizes.

Cde Bishop's presence at RFG's prize-giving was indeed historic, for, as station's manager McBarnette, pointed out, it was the first time in 28 years that a prime minister had attended such a function at the station.

PM Bishop told RFG workers, that RFG is the most important of the national media, since it is listened to every second for 18.5 hours daily, by people inside and outside Grenada.

RFG has the difficult, yet crucial, task of giving facts about what is happening in the world, at the same time, taking care to ensure that it does not disseminate information which has been shaped, conditioned and interpreted by the imperialists, said Cde. Bishop.

This is important, he explained, since Grenada has a non-aligned foreign policy, with anti-imperialism as the basis of this philosophy. Grenada therefore could not carry imperialist-fabricated news, which is always against the interests and struggles of Third World countries, said the PM.

"Until the new international information order comes about, we have a responsibility to ensure that our work in the information services is compatible with the interests of the revolution," he said.

The PM noted there have been important criticisms about weaknesses, which must be improved at the station, adding that "if we are to go forward, then RFG must go forward with the rest of the nation."

Cde Coard, at Tuesday's ceremony at Butler House, addressed the entire staff of the information services.

Cde. Coard gave a detailed account of the operations of what he described as the "media mafia" in the region

and the world, stressing the consistent attacks against the Grenadian revolution by individuals who control the media such as Lord Thompson of Britain and Ken Gordon of Trinidad and Tobago.

For such persons, he said, "freedom of the press" means freedom for those who have millions of dollars to buy, equip and staff radio stations, television stations and newspapers.

Cde Coard pointed out that these "media mafia" are bent on harming Grenada's economy by disseminating false and slanderous information against the Grenadian revolution, particularly in countries from which Grenada's tourists come.

There is need for all information workers in Grenada to understand the nature of the task they have to carry out, he said: the beating back of misinformation.

He pointed out that although the information services here have been operating with the minimum of technology, "we are defeating the media mafia in the struggle for information."

Bro McBarnette, said that the experiences of the past year showed attempts to revolutionize the station's programme, from having reflected the whims and fancies of a dying Gairy regime, to reflecting the new thrust of a free and revolutionary people.

His comments came in a report at RFG's emulation exercise.

The station has to move hand in hand with the revolution, therefore he said, the staff intends to remodel and reform present programming, to keep

abreast with the successes and achievements of the revolution.

Therefore, increased production must be a top priority in the coming year, said Bro McBarnette. Attitudes to work, and discipline, will have to be improved, and waste of taxpayers' money will not be tolerated.

Recognizing the growing hostility of other regional and international radio stations, he said RFG is now taking serious steps to develop the quality and training of its personnel.

While Cuba is assisting in the training of some workers, others will be attending courses in Czechoslovakia, Hungary and Yugoslavia in the years ahead, he said.

A critical concern for next year, Bro. McBarnette said, must be more careful analysis of news and general information, because the political climate demands this if PRG is to avoid errors that can endanger the lives of the people, the country and the revolution.

FOREST INDUSTRY IMPROVING WITH FOREIGN ASSISTANCE

St. George's FREE WEST INDIAN in English 20 Dec 80 pp 18-19

[Article by Stephen Fouchon]

[Excerpts]

FOR the past two-and-a-half decades, forestry in Grenada has been improving and developing, despite numerous setbacks.

The most devastating blow to the industry was struck in 1955, by Hurricane Janet. This natural disaster did havoc to the economy of the country. Apart from islandwide agricultural and infrastructural damages, she also stagnated economic and commercial activities.

Grenada lost 65 per cent of its forest products. Many trees had fallen, leaving the forest land somewhat bare. This was conducive to soil erosion, therefore immediate action was needed to reconstruct the forest, and some assistance came from the Colonial Welfare Development Fund (CWD).

In November 1976, two forestry consultants came to Grenada to examine the feasibility of utilising the country's forest resources. They suggested that an evaluation of the forest inventory in Grand Etang be made. This involved finding the value in board feet of the trees in the forests.

The following September, a US Peace Corps couple, Mr and

Mrs Potters arrived in Grenada for stock-taking in Grand Etang.

With the advent of the March 13, 1979 Revolution, efforts to enhance the scale of production within the forests were intensified. The People's Revolutionary Government, instantly recognising the need for timber products, purchased a sawmill from Australia for \$50,000.

This mill is currently located in Grand Etang, and is being used for converting crude timber into lumber. However, due to heavy rains, the mill has not been operating at its maximum. It should not be surprising, therefore, that this year's lumber production so far is 3,552 feet of board.

Because most forest operations are done in the open, inclement weather is a great impediment to progress. Nevertheless, a variety of other products have been produced and sold for development purposes.

Production this year has exceeded last year's. In 1979, from June to December, 264 roles of split fencing, 1107 fence posts, 717 feet of laths and 101 house posts were sold by the Timber Division, Queen's Park.

For 1980, January to September, were 373 roles of split fencing, 1353 fence posts, 1676 feet of laths, 530 house posts and three telegraphic poles were sold.

According to projections for 1981, 15,000 feet of board and 200 roles of fencing, feet of laths, and fence posts each would be produced per month at an estimated monthly cost of \$50,000, provided there is adequate equipment and transportation.

The Ministry of Works and Communications has begun building roads in Grand Etang according to the Potters' network. The aim is to lay down one mile of road initially to give access to a 200-acre forest. The estimated potential of this forest is about two million board feet of standing timber, which is expected to be exploited in the two years ahead.

Last September two experts - one in forestry and the other in industry - from the United Nations' Development Programme (UNDP), came to re-evaluate the Potters' reports.

After a special survey of the forests, they devised a development complex that included sawing, solar-drying, fence-making,

charcoal production, and impregnation treatment to preserve wood. The complex also involved the production of particle board, that is, plywood sheets.

There have been new dimensions in the development of forestry. Recent research has shown that bananas are capable of growing on high altitudes. In fact, a plot of banana is vegetating successfully on a height of 1910 feet in the Grand Etang forests.

Other cash crops are being inter-planted with young forest trees. Apart from being a source

of finance, the banana and other crops also serve as nurse-crops for sheltering the young forest trees. This practice of inter-planting is also a way of preventing soil erosion.

New species of trees are to be introduced into the island from Caribbean territories such as Belize, Honduras, Costa Rica and Cuba. They include Caribbean pine, BH mahogany, red and white cedar, mahoe, loanaciliata and eucalyptus.

All these changes are indications of forward movement for

the forest industry, but, the lack of adequate skilled personnel has also affected development.

However, attempts are being made to alleviate this problem. Ministry workers have been sent to Kenya for training and many other Grenadians are abroad studying various subjects, including forestry.

The Cuban Government, in liaison with the Grenada Ministry of Agriculture has agreed to send a technician to assist in forestry development for one year. He is due here this month.

BRIEFS

HYDROELECTRIC POTENTIAL--Six rivers in Grenada have been identified as having potential for generating hydroelectric power. The rivers are Crochu, Munich, St. Marks Concord, Great, and Beausejour which alone are estimated to be able to supply one megawatt of electricity a year, constituting half St. George's consumption. This vital information was given by a hydrological engineer from Guadeloupe, who conducted a preliminary technical survey of the rivers. According to Paul Koulen of the Energy Unit of the Ministry of Planning, Grenada's average consumption of electricity in 1979 was 2.2 megawatts and the engineer's assessment showed that the country has the potential to yield 3.6 megawatts. The engineer's report will be given to the People's Revolutionary Government (PRG) early next year when he will do some follow up work. [Text] [St. George's FREE WEST INDIAN in English 20 Dec 80 p 12]

PROPERTY SURVEY--The Inland Revenue Department will from January 2, next year, conduct an island-wide survey to determine the value of all lands and houses in Grenada. Purpose of the survey is to update data which is important in planning for future development and to maintain a uniformity in values for the purpose of land and house tax. The last survey was done more than a decade ago. The department has appointed 10 teams to conduct the survey and is appealing to citizens to give them their fullest co-operation. The teams' names will be announced before the beginning of the survey and they will also carry identification cards. All information given to the teams will be treated confidentially. [Text] [St. George's FREE WEST INDIAN in English 20 Dec 80 p 11]

MINISTRY APPOINTMENTS--Two new appointments have been made to the Ministry of Education, Youth Social Affairs, Community Development, Co-operatives and Sports. Christopher DeRiggs has been appointed as Secretary for Culture, and Leon Cornwall as Secretary for Youth and Sports. Bro. DeRiggs is one of the country's leading dramatists and has initiated several cultural efforts. He led the Grenada delegation to the last Caribbean Festival of Arts, Carifesta in Cuba last year, and was chairman of the cultural committee for the festival for the first anniversary of the revolution in March. He also started the Theatre Group of the New Jewel Movement's National Youth Organisation (TCNYO). Bro. Cornwall, a member of the People's Revolutionary Government, was a former major in the People's Revolutionary Army. He has been active in youth work for many years, since before the revolution. He was once president of the Grenada Assembly of Youth and is now a central committee member of the NJM-NYO. [Text] [St. George's FREE WEST INDIAN in English 10 Jan 81 p 14]

PPP STATEMENT CRITICIZES PNC ACTIONS, APPOINTMENTS

'Burden' of Cabinet

Bridgetown ADVOCATE-NEWS in English 5 Jan 81 p 3

[Excerpt] GEORGETOWN, Guyana, Sunday, (CANA) — The official Opposition Peoples Progressive Party (PPP) today criticised President Forbes Burnham's new Cabinet, claiming it was another burden on taxpayers.

Following the December 15 general elections victory of Mr. Burnham's People National Congress (PNC), the President named five Vice Presidents and 29 other Cabinet members to help him run the affairs of state for the next five years.

In a statement, the PPP declared "insult has been added to injury by imposing 35 Ministers and Parliamentary Secretaries, including the

President, on the hard-pressed over-burdened tax-payers."

It stated that "the provision of five Vice Presidents for a population of less than one million is another ludicrous and grim development."

The PPP claimed in addition that constitutional provisions for the appointment of technocrats — members not elected to the National Assembly — in the Cabinet, had been abused.

"Many of the 16 chosen from outside of the PNC 41 elected members cannot by any stretch of imagination be deemed technocrats," it added.

The PPP claimed that 10 of the 16 technocrats named to the Cabinet were on the nominated list of PNC candidates for the

elections and argued that if it was the intention to appoint them as Ministers and Parliamentary Secretaries, "they should have been included among the PNC 41 elected members (in the National Assembly)."

The official election results for the 53-seat National Assembly gave the PNC 41 seats, the PPP 10 and the small United Force two seats.

The PPP contended that the selection of the 16 technocrat Ministers and Parliamentary Secretaries was a means by the PNC of "corruptly putting 16 PNC members in the National Assembly and providing them with parliamentary salaries and perks."

Guyana Version

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 5 Jan 81 p 9

[Text]

A NEW YEAR statement issued by the People's Progressive Party has called upon Guyanese to stride forward in 1981 and lift their heads high in the face of adversity.

Referring to the December, 1980 elections which the PPP claims to have won, the

statement alleged that the P.N.C. will maintain a "parliamentary democratic" facade.

In its statement, the P.P.P. predicted that the new year would witness worsening social conditions and a sharpening of contradictions between the ruling P.N.C. and the masses.

According to the P.P.P. social betterment could only come with the removal of the P.N.C. and the setting-up of a broad-based National Patriotic Front Government.

The P.P.P. claimed that there was no light at the end of the P.N.C. tunnel, not even after sixteen years of travelling.

SUGAR PRODUCTION FAILS TO MEET REVISED TARGET

Bridgetown ADVOCATE-NEWS in English 5 Jan 81 p 3

[Text]

GEORGETOWN, Guyana, Sunday. (CANA) — Guyana's 1980 sugar output reached 301 868 metric tonnes yesterday and will be only marginally higher by the time the crop ends today.

Eight of the country's 10 mills had completed operations, and the remaining two will close off today, the state-owned sugar corporation announced.

It said bad weather had disrupted harvesting during the latter part of the year. The rain, mechanical and other problems had contributed to the poor production figures.

The original target at the beginning of the year was 375 200 metric tonnes. Later, the target was reduced to 347 200 metric tonnes.

Last month, a further reduction was announced by the corporation — to 341 600 metric tonnes.

As it is, actual production will be substantially below that figure.

Guyana has two sugar harvests annually, and the first for 1981 is to start in a week's time, the corporation said, with one mill operating. The others will phase in around monthend and early February.

The year's target is set at 380 600 metric tonnes, a slight

drop under the original 1980 level.

An indication that sugar output had dropped substantially — as had that of bauxite and rice — first came from President Forbes Burnham in a Christmas message.

Bauxite's original targets were 991 200 metric tonnes of metal grade and chemical grade bauxite, 96 000 metric tonnes of calcined bauxite and 532 000 tonnes of alumina — all expected to earn G\$600 million (G\$2.2 million) for the national treasury.

Burnham said however that bauxite was down 20 per cent on its target and so was rice.

Rice will be about 33 600 metric tonnes short of the 224 000 metric tonnes set at the beginning of 1980.

Executive chairman Claude Saul of the State-run Guyana Rice Board said rice had a good start with its first, and smaller, crop of the year yielding 87 360 metric tonnes, whereas the target had been 78 400.

But according to Saul, the late arrival here of 250 tractors from Brazil knocked askew projections for the second, and larger, crop.

BRIEFS

PACT WITH USSR--Guyana and the Soviet Union yesterday signed an agreement aimed at promoting a further development and strengthening of friendship, cooperation and relations between the two countries. It is also aimed at acquiring a wider acquaintance with mutual achievements in the fields of science, education, culture, cinematography and mass media. The work programme of scientific exchanges between the two countries was signed by Cde. Desmond Hoyte Minister of Economic Development and Cooperatives and Mr Valdimir Kotenev, Ambassador of the USSR to Guyana yesterday afternoon in the conference room of the Economic Development and Cooperatives Ministry. This programme is in keeping with the agreement on cultural and scientific cooperation between the Government of the Cooperative Republic of Guyana and the USSR in April 1978 in Moscow. Present at the official ceremony were officials of the USSR embassy in Guyana, Permanent Secretary of the Economic Development Ministry Cde. Leslie Johnson and other senior officials of the Ministry. Economic Development and Co-operatives Minister Desmond Hoyte and USSR Ambassador to Guyana Mr Vladimir Kotenev [shook] hands after the signing of the agreement yesterday. [Text] [Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 31 Dec 80 p 11]

DELEGATE TO HAVANA--The chief PNC delegate to the recently concluded Second Congress of the Cuban Communist Party, Cde. Elvin McDavid, has expressed consolation in the fact that neither Guyana nor Cuba was alone in the formidable task of building Socialism and bringing progress to the two countries. Cde. McDavid who led a five-member delegation to the Congress last made the expression while delivering the message of the PNC at a Solidarity Rally at the Enrique Verona Foundary in Havana. He observed that the Cuban experience has been very instructive and useful to Guyana. Cde. McCavid who is also a member of the PNC's Central Executive and Secretariat assured the Cubans that the PNC was very disposed to forging the strongest possible links with the Cuban people in order that common defences against the imperialist enemy could be guaranteed. The PNC delegation was accorded a very high reception and was able to meet several senior party and state officials including Vice-President Carlos Rafael Rodriguez and Vice-Premier responsible for Construction, Jose Lopez Moreno. The Congress was also attended by a two-man delegation from the People's Progressive Party. [Excerpts] [Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 3 Jan 81 p 9]

CUBAN COMMISSION--The second meeting of the Guyana-Cuba Mixed Commission will be held in Georgetown during next month as a result of several decisions taken last month at a meeting between Guyanese and Cuban officials. The meeting was held in Havana when a five-member team from Guyana headed by Guyana's Ambassador to the Soviet Union, Elvin McDavid, represented the People's National Congress at the second Congress of the Cuban Communist Party. Cuban officials at the meeting included Vice President Carlos Rafael Rodriguez and Vice Premier Jose Lopez Moreno. Cde McDavid said that the meetings with the Cuban state officials focused on the prospects for increased trade relations, technical assistance and the general strengthening of the special links which have characterised relations between the two countries. The team which spent eight days in Havana also met Caribbean leaders from other countries before returning home. [Text] [Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 3 Jan 81 p 9]

CSO: 3025

REPORTS ISSUED ON FOREIGN RESERVES, EXPORTS

Foreign Reserves

Bridgetown ADVOCATE-NEWS in English 1 Jan 81 p 3

[Text] KINGSTON, Jamaica, Wednesday. (CANA) — Jamaica net foreign reserves position stood at minus J\$740.5 million (US\$415.4 million) at the end of October, a deterioration of J\$6.4 million (US\$3.6 million) on the previous month, according to figures released by the Bank of Jamaica (BOJ) Central Bank.

In its latest review, covering October, the BOJ said that the major factor contributing to decline was a J\$38.6 million (US\$20.5 million) payout for oil and other imports.

It said that during the month total deposits in the BOJ fell by J\$1.7 million (US\$29 million) with the accounts of central government and quasi-governmental institutions falling by J\$42.2 (US\$23.6 million) and J\$20.8 million (US\$11.6 million) respectively.

This deficit was partly offset by an increase of J\$11.3 million (US\$6.3 million) in deposits by commercial banks

On the assets side, the BOJ said that while advances to the government fell by J\$332.8 million (US\$181 million) the bank's holding rose by J\$377.7 million (US\$212 million) with a special issue of local registered stocks which was taken up to cover earlier short-term advances.

Assets and liabilities of commercial banks were J\$1,972 million (US\$1,108 million) at the end of October, following an increase of J\$19 million (US\$11 million) during the month, the BOJ said.

It said that total deposits held by the bank fell by J\$4.5 (US\$2.5 million) as a J\$21.6 million (US\$12.1 million) increase in savings, and J\$2.2 million in time deposits were offset by a decline of J\$28.2 million (US\$16 million) in demand deposits.

The payment of interest by some of the larger banks, the BOJ said, accounted for the significant increase in saving deposits.

The BOJ said that there was an unusually high increase of J\$51.3 million (US\$29 million) in loans and advances extended by banks in October, with the movement largely concentrated in the major institutions which experienced an upsurge in demand for loans by business firms to cover activities ranging from expansion to operating expenses.

However, it said that the level of activity in merchant banks and trust companies remained relatively low during the month.

The deposits of both sets of institutions increased slightly, with the merchant banks paying in J\$1.1 million and trust companies J\$0.7 million.

The loans and advances of merchant banks fell by J\$0.4 million while those of the trust companies rose by J\$0.9 million.

Export Figures

Kingston THE SUNDAY GLEANER in English 4 Jan 81 pp 14, 24

[Review by the Jamaica National Export Corporation of export performance in 1980]

[Text] **N**ON-TRADITIONAL EXPORTS grew by 22 percent in 1980. The overall increase in the level of non-traditional exports was due

mainly to the continued commendable performance of Certified Exporters, particularly the tobacco industry, and the growth of the J.N.E.C.

subsidiary, the Jamaica Export Trading Company, and other major trading companies, according to Mr. Peter King, Chief Executive of

the J.N.E.C. Group of Companies.

Estimates of non-traditional export for 1980 show a growth of 21.6% reflecting their movement from U.S.\$190.4-million (J\$250.7-million) to U.S.\$158.6-million (J\$203-million). An important contributant, however, was the 95% increase in the value of petroleum products.

Mr. King said it must be remembered that inflation could distort the figures, and it must also be borne in mind that volume of exports had not risen in 1980 to the extent that might have been desired.

Preliminary estimates indicate exports to the United States are likely to fall by 1%, while exports to Canada should increase substantially, due mainly to sale of alcoholic beverages. Other statistics on a preliminary basis show exports to Europe and exports to CARICOM remaining virtually constant.

These achievements assume greater significance against a background of several economic factors which continued to inhibit the desired levels of export performance.

However, this performance reflects the down-turn in productive activity due to foreign exchange shortages, manpower drain, and the withdrawal of supplier credit.

CERTIFIED EXPORTERS

The 154 Certified Exporters in 1980 accounted for 89% of exports to CARICOM. Although full figures are not available, approximately 70% of their products go to the CARICOM area. An analysis of their performance to CARICOM shows their exports January to November to be U.S.\$42-million. This is an increase of 1.7%.

Mr. King said that 1981 must see much further development based on past performance. While CARICOM

continues to be the mainstay of our markets, penetration of Third Country markets must be our priority. Management and production disciplines need to be strictly adhered to for us to achieve export-led growth.

This year's increase is not as great as the 36% increase last year, reflecting the deteriorating state of the economy. It was the Export Development Fund that kept the scheme alive.

The J.N.E.C. saluted the Certified Exporters with the presentation to nine of them, of awards and certificates for their outstanding performance in 1979.

CARICOM

Total CARICOM exports, January to November, declined by 3.5 percent, although Certified Exporters increased their share of total exports by 4.6 percent.

Exports by trading companies accounted for the highest percentage of exports, with a total of \$9.1 million.

Other sectors with significant contribution to our exports were Chemicals, U.S.\$9-million, and Building Products, U.S.\$8.7 million. Rum and Liqueurs was the sector recording the highest percentage increase, 64.2%, followed by Electrical Apparatus 22.9% and Chemicals 21.1%.

Sectors which declined significantly were Paper and Packaging, down 52.1%; Tobacco Products 41.9%; Garments 39.5% and Electrical Appliances 32.1%.

J.N.E.C.

SUBSIDIARIES

Sales by JETCO increased to an estimated \$20-million during 1980, from \$13.5 million in 1979.

Although JETCO's client-companies were subject to the negative factors affecting the overall economy, the company continued to provide the vital services of relieving exporters of the problems of export marketing and

increased their ability to concentrate on production.

The company also recorded a break-through in the export of such products as limestone.

J.N.E.C.'s trading and marketing subsidiaries in the U.K. JETCO/JAMCO —succeeded in negotiating a record high price of £ 247 per ton for Jamaican bananas. JAMCO/JETCO also created a new marketing situation for Jamaican citrus, tropical fruits and vegetables in the E.E.C markets.

Compared to 1980, the achievements included a 45 percent increase in citrus tonnage to 2161 tons and a 64 percent increase in revenue to £ 694,792. In fruits and vegetables, the increase was 272 percent in tonnage to 917 tonnes and a 582 percent revenue increase to £ 385,000.

PROMOTIONAL ACTIVITIES

The J.N.E.C.'s activities in the areas of promotions and public relations were continued at a relatively high level throughout the year, as the Corporation continued to promote exports as a most vital aspect of the Jamaican economy.

Some 13,000 copies of the Corporation's Export Information Bulletin were distributed; and assistance and co-operation provided in the production of the GLEANER publication, "Jamaica Exports".

During the year, the J.N.E.C. continued to promote Jamaican products in diverse overseas markets. The Corporation participated for the first time in the Roka Food Fair in Holland and for the second time in the Trade Fair of the Americas '80. Store promotion was also undertaken in Germany and Canada.

Research missions to West Germany, Southern United States, Bermuda and Bahamas were carried out. In addition, there were inward buying missions from

Guantanamo Bay and Switzerland; and exhibitions in Port of Spain, Trinidad.

TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT

The J.N.E.C. continued to play a major role in meeting the needs for training in various export disciplines. During the year, some 148 persons attended 15 training courses organised by the J.N.E.C.

New dimensions were added to the training agenda with the offering of new courses in four specific product categories and three courses in specific market areas. The programme to upgrade its own staff was also continued during the year.

In order to gear up for delivering even more efficient service to the exporting sector, the J.N.E.C. was re-organised based on the results of a study undertaken by the World Bank.

During the year, also, the Corporation's computerised Data Bank completed its first full operational year during which it produced monthly up-to-date statistics on CARICOM exports, as well as monthly foreign exchange returns on all exports for the Bank of Jamaica.

TRADE COMMISSIONER SERVICE

The Trade Commissioner Service continue to provide valuable assistance to Jamaican exporters, despite the fact that there was a contraction of personnel in some market areas. The J.E.A's award to one Trade Commissioner is indication of the important role that the whole service plays in the exporting community.

On the international scene, at the EEC/ACP Marseilles Conference, on investment and trade promotion, the Chief Executive of the Corporation was chosen to present the ACP position reviewing the performance of LOME I.

Mr. King was also appointed to the UNCTAD/GATT Special Committee reviewing trade promotional activities of the International Trade Centre.

During the year, also, the J.N.E.C. continued to receive substantial assistance from such international agencies as the European Development Fund, the Commonwealth Fund for Technical Co-operation, the World Bank and the International Trade Centre.

INTERNATIONAL AWARDS

An encouraging development during the year was the international recognition gained by several of our non-traditional exports in the areas of food, tobacco products and non-alcoholic beverages. Particular mention must be made of Grace Kennedy and Combined Tobacco.

These successes augur well for the continued maturity of our Jamaican products and the further enhancement of the export potential of the country.

BOARD RE-APPOINTED

Towards the end of the year, the full Board of the J.N.E.C. Group of Companies was re-appointed under the chairmanship of the Honourable Carlton Alexander. The New Export Minister, the Rt. Hon. Hugh Shearer, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Trade, charged the Corporation to continue its leading role in the country's economic development.

Although attended by several difficulties, 1980 was a year in which export performance was maintained; and exporters deserve the nation's commendation.

LABOR DISPUTES CLOSE CIGARETTE, PAPER, DETERGENT PLANTS

Arbitration Efforts

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 31 Dec 80 p 1

[Text]

Production at three companies, the Cigarette Company of Jamaica, the West Indies Pulp and Paper and the Jamaica Detergents Limited — remained at a standstill yesterday with the Ministry of Labour working overtime last night to settle disputes which led to two of the closures.

Workers at the Cigarette Company at Twickenham Park near Spanish Town, St. Catherine and at the West Indies Pulp and Paper in Free Town, Clarendon, all represented by the Bustamante Industrial Trade Union, went on strike on Monday.

The Cigarette Company workers said that they were protesting against the two-day suspension of a colleague union delegate. The paper workers said they were striking in solidarity with a dismissed worker whom they want reinstated.

The third company out of operation is Jamaica Detergents Limited which has run out of oleum, a vital chemical ingredient in the manufacture of detergents.

In connection with the strike at West Indies Pulp and Paper, the manager of the company, Mr. Tony Pickersgill, said yesterday that contrary to press reports, industrial action by production people at the plant only began on Monday

with the morning shift and did not stem from any earlier dispute.

Mr. Pickersgill said that charges by the union that the company had dismissed the Technical Co-ordinator because the union had served a claim for bargaining rights for categories including him, were not based on facts. He said that the co-ordinator, Mr. Errol McLaughlin, was dismissed on December 18 and that the union's claim was received on December 29.

He said that the co-ordinator was dismissed for failure to carry out instructions from the management.

Meanwhile, it is understood that the management of the Cigarette Company has posted a notice that it would close the plant if the strike was prolonged.

At the meeting at the Ministry of Labour yesterday, the union was pressing for full payment for the two days on which the delegate was suspended for allegedly inciting workers.

The Ministry was still meeting at press time last night to try for a settlement of the disputes.

Return to Work

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 1 Jan 81 p 1

[Text]

A RASH OF HOLIDAY STRIKES which threatened to affect production in the New Year subsided yesterday with several agreements being reached for work resumption.

Employees of the Cigarette Company of Jamaica at Twickenham Park in St. Catherine, were back on the job yesterday morning, ending a two-day strike which was sparked by the dismissal of an employee. The dismissal issue has been referred to the Industrial Disputes Tribunal for settlement.

The strike almost triggered a rush on cigarettes from retail and wholesale outlets, out of fear of a shortage over the New Year week-end. However, supplies are expected to be back to normal by tomorrow morning. The workers are represented by the BITU.

A strike at the West Indies Yeast Company, Job Lane, Spanish Town, which had threatened to curtail industrial baking for the New Year was settled at the Ministry of Labour yesterday.

The strike began last week after an employee was dismissed for striking a security guard.

THREE MAJOR CORPORATE AREA BAKERIES, the NCC, Purity and HTB, were affected because of the shortage

of yeast caused by the stoppage. Several rural bakeries were also affected.

At a meeting yesterday at the Ministry of Labour presided over by the Deputy Director of Industrial Relations Mr. Grosford Smith, an agreement was reached that the employee would be placed on suspension at full pay pending investigations of the incident. The probe will commence on January 7.

The ΔWU which represents the workers agreed that the picket lines would be removed from yesterday and the workers would resume tomorrow morning after a workers' meeting at 8.30 a.m. on the premises.

The Gleaner understands that the yeast shortage will be alleviated before the resumption as the company started distributing it yesterday afternoon.

CLERICAL AND SUPERVISORY EMPLOYEES at West Indies Pulp and Paper, Freetown, Clarendon, who went on strike on Monday are also expected to resume work tomorrow.

The management and the BITU which is seeking to represent the workers agreed at the Ministry of Labour on Tuesday that the dispute involving the dismissal of a co-ordinator would be referred to the Industrial Disputes Tribunal for settlement. The union should have held a workers' meeting at the plant yesterday morning to instruct a resumption, but was unable to notify enough workers and the meeting had to be postponed to 8 a.m. tomorrow.

And unionized KSAC Public Cleansing Department workers who staged a demonstration yesterday morning protesting against the corporation's decision to close the department today, resumed work after Mayor Arthur Jones agreed that they would be allowed to work and earn regular holiday overtime pay.

The workers had protested that if the department was closed today, they would lose their regular overtime payments for working on holidays.

BRIEFS

COMMUNIST PARTY ACTIVITIES--George's Plain, Nov 18--Members of the Communist Workers Party of Jamaica who on October 27 entered the area of Jane Marks in Westmoreland and shot and beat JLP supporters have made their appearance again in the area but this time to make peace with their political enemies. They visited the area, which is a JLP strong hold, on November 17 about 2 p.m. and the peace-making and celebration took place at a point where Mr Herman Ramsay's bar and grocery is located and just a few chains from the George's Plain Post Office. According to reports, during the election campaign and after election the Jane Marks and George's Plain citizens could not go to Frome or Ricketts River and the Frome and Ricketts River citizens could not go to George's Plain or Jane Marks. This situation continued up to the time of peace making. [Text] [Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 31 Dec 80 p 3]

LOCAL ELECTIONS PLAN--The electoral office is updating the voters' list and preparing itself for Local Government elections which are due in March 1981. In February last year Parliament passed a bill postponing Local Government elections for one year, to March this year, because the new electoral system was not in place and the new voters' list was not then ready. Under the relevant law Local Government elections to the Kingston and St Andrew Corporation and the 12 Parish Councils should be held every three years. The last such elections took place on March 8, 1977. However shortly before March 7, 1980 a Bill seeking the postponement for a year was approved by Parliament. At the Electoral Office measures are being taken to update the voters' list and to take all steps preparatory to the holding of elections. "We aim to be ready whenever we are called upon to hold elections" a spokesman said yesterday. The KSAC and all 12 Parish Councils are now under control of PNP administrations. [Text] [Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 3 Jan 81 p 1]

CSO: 3025

BRIEFS

CARIBBEAN REGIONAL POLICY--Mexico City, 9 Feb (AFP)--Mexican Foreign Secretary Jorge Castaneda today stressed that the Central American and Caribbean situation has "top priority" for his government. The secretary made the statement at the opening of consultation meeting with the Mexican ambassadors to the aforementioned region. The foreign secretary indicated that the discussions should strengthen the basic principles of Mexico's foreign policy, particularly that of nonintervention, "which at this time is in danger of being ignored by some countries." Castaneda referred to the region's very complex and stormy situation and he added that the meeting that ends on Thursday will enable Mexico "to gather all the views that will help draft an improved and more sound foreign policy in that region." The 12 Mexican ambassadors in Central America and the Caribbean and Mexico's permanent representative to the OAS, Rafael de la Colina, are participating in the meeting. [Text] [PA101719 Paris AFP in Spanish 2340 GMT 9 Feb 81]

CSO: 3010

BUDGET FOR 1981 PROJECTS END-OF-YEAR SURPLUS, NEW DUTIES

Bridgetown ADVOCATE-NEWS in English 19 Dec 80 p 3

[Article by Bertram Gilfillan: "Budget for \$46.3M Recurrent Expenditure"]

[Text] Basseterre, St. Kitts, (CANA)--St. Kitts-Nevis Finance Minister Simeon Daniel yesterday announced a projected end of year surplus, imposition of a special tax on the income of foreigners working here, as well as a wide range of increases in licences and duties, in the 1981 budget.

The budget calls for recurrent expenditure totalling EC\$46.3 million (US\$17.1 million).

Mr Daniel said that an aliens employment levy of 10 per cent will be imposed on the salaries earned by foreigners working in the state. This will be in addition to the work permit fee.

Driving licences fees are being doubled to EC\$10, while the duty on all liquors, except rum and still wines will be increased 10 per cent. The duty on cigarettes, cigars and tobacco will be increased five per cent.

A fee for permanent residence will be introduced--EC\$500 for citizens of the Caribbean Community, and US\$1 500 for those outside.

On the economic and financial performance of the state, Mr Daniel announced a surplus of around EC\$8.4 million (US\$3.1 million) deficit to the end of last December.

The surplus for 1980 was produced despite heavy spending, said Mr Daniel.

He described 1980 as one of St. Kitts-Nevis' best years economically for some time.

And he forecast a substantial year-end surplus, despite spending that will include more than EC\$3 million on airport extension, final payment of close to EC 1 million for the sugar factory, and EC\$1.2 million for a new ferry to work the St. Kitts-Nevis route.

Mr Daniel estimated that 1980 recurrent revenue was in the region of EC\$49.8 million (US\$18.4 million) while recurrent expenditure was just over EC\$39.4 million (US\$14.5) producing a surplus of more than EC\$10 million (US\$3.7 million).

Capital revenue up to the end of November was EC\$2 million (US\$740 000). Capital expenditure was just under EC\$4.3 million (US\$1.6 million).

The capital deficit was EC\$2.8 million (US\$1 million).

Mr Daniel also announced abolition of the annual EC\$5 fishing boats licence fee, and its replacement by a one-shot EC\$20.

Mr Daniel described the budget as a balanced one.

CSO: 3025

BRIEFS

HOTEL CAPACITY--December: The Caribbean island of St. Lucia plans to double its hotel capacity to some 4,000 rooms by the end of next year. Up to August of this year, traffic to St. Lucia was down about 20 per cent but, as Newman Monroe, chairman of the St. Lucia Tourist Board, points out, this drop is less than that suffered by some islands. "Although we've had a slip in our trade, we're preparing ourselves for what could be a pretty good future," he said during a visit to Canada. Most of the new hotel development is on the north end of the island and St. Lucia's airport is being upgraded to handle 747s with British Airways considering direct widebodied service from London next year. New cruise facilities with berths for two ships are being built at Castries and the project, with duty free shops, is expected to be completed in 1982. Monroe said all of the island's hotels will be operating this winter after suffering some damage in August when a hurricane hit the east and south coasts. The main damage was to agriculture, he said, with banana crop being destroyed. Canadians make up the largest group of visitors to St. Lucia, with about 35 per cent of traffic. Europeans also account for 35 percent. [Text] [Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 2 Jan 81 p 2]

CSO: 3025

ECONOMY REGISTERS HEALTHY GROWTH IN 1980

Statistical Office Report

Bridgetown ADVOCATE-NEWS in English 23 Dec 80 p 9

[Text] **PORT-OF-SPAIN.** Trinidad, Monday (CANA) — Trinidad and Tobago's economy grew by about 22 per cent this year and there is a substantial surplus from Government's fiscal management, the Statistical Office has reported.

Gross domestic product at current prices will exceed TT\$14 billion (US\$5.8 billion) compared with TT\$11.5 billion (US\$4.8 billion) last year and TT\$9.5 billion (US\$3.8 billion) in 1978.

Total government revenue, a record TT\$6.2 billion (US\$2.7 billion) is 54 per cent more than the TT\$4.0 billion (US\$1.66 billion) last year.

The twin-island republic is currently the most prosperous member of the 12-country Caribbean Community (CARICOM), and has reserves of more than US\$2.0 billion.

It is a significant regional oil producer outside the membership of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC).

The national budget for 1981 recently presented to Parliament by Prime Minister-Minister of Finance Dr. Eric Williams is for TT\$6.8 billion (US\$2.9 billion) with tax concessions for the individual.

Personal income tax in 1980 is contributing 10 per cent of total revenue, down one per cent from last year. The contribution from corporation income tax rises by 6 per cent to 36 per cent.

Says the Statistical Office: "The fall in revenues deriving from taxes on incomes of individuals reflects mainly the expansion of the Government's programme of income tax relief

on this group of taxpayers, while the movement in the corporation tax revenue demonstrates the increased profitability of the corporate sector."

Personal incomes will yield TT\$425 million (US\$200 million) and the corporations TT\$3 474 million (US\$1 425 million).

Growth of consumer expenditure and merchandise imports will result in indirect tax revenue of around TT\$687 million (US\$282 million), a rise of 29 per cent above the 1979 level.

Government expenditure this year is approximately TT\$5 975 million (US\$2 450 million), a 43 per cent rise over last year's.

The expenditure represents a 82 per cent hike on capital and 25 per cent increase on current spending compared with 1979.

"The rapid rise of industrial and infrastructural development being pursued within the economy is reflected in large measure in the growth of the central government capital expenditures," says the report.

With GDP at 14 billion, the country's gross national product — that is, GDP net factor incomes paid abroad — is around TT\$12 billion (US\$5.0 billion).

It is explained that the petroleum sector continued to dominate the economy, its contribution this year being valued at about TT\$4 834 million (US\$2 023 million), an increase of 2 1/2 per cent over last year's.

"This increase is more reflective of favourable price movements than real increases in production levels.

"Notwithstanding this growth in output, the sector's contribution to the GDP has been falling since 1977.

"Its share of the GDP was 43 per cent in that year, but declined to 38 per cent in 1978 and 36 per cent in 1979. It is projected to fall further to 35 per cent in 1980, reflecting the relatively faster growth of the non-oil sectors of the economy," the report points out.

Crude petroleum production last year was 12.4 million cubic metres, a 7 per cent drop from the previous. On the basis of mid-year figures (6.2 million cubic metres to the end of June), the post-1977 decline might have checked.

One of the major factors is an increase in production by Trinidad Tesoro Limited which brought a number of new wells on stream.

Distribution of local crude production by the six companies involved is: AMOCO (36.5 per cent), Trinidad Northern Areas (19.2), Texaco (8.9), Trinidad Tesoro (11.2 per cent), TRIN-TOC (4.1), and Premier Consolidated Oilfields (0.1).

Again this year, Trinidad and Tobago faced difficulties in getting sufficient foreign oil for its refineries.

Refinery throughput declined from 25 million cubic metres in 1970 to 19 million in 1976 and 13 million last year.

The ratio of crude petroleum imports to total refinery throughput, which averaged 73 per cent in the period 1970-1976, was down to 62 per cent last year.

"Among the factors accounting for this trend has been the adverse impact of U.S. tax legislation on refinery exports from Trinidad and Tobago and from other non-U.S. sources.

"The more important factor, however, appears to be related to the structure of the local refineries. Most of the local refining capacity has been geared towards the production of heavy fuels which tend to be less profitable than the production of lighter fuels.

"Given the high cost of crude petroleum as well as the U.S. tax legislation, it has become more profitable for U.S. multinationals to have a larger proportion of their processing undertaken in refineries located in the U.S. and its dependencies," the report notes.

It adds however, that "the decline in refinery throughput appears to have been arrested in 1980, as throughput for the first half of the year rose 13 per cent above the level of the corresponding period of 1979. However, the war between Iraq and Iran and the market disruptions that are likely to ensue have cast a gloomy shadow on the continued availability of imported supplies even at current levels."

Inflation Problem

Bridgetown SUNDAY ADVOCATE-NEWS 28 Dec 80 p 3

[Text] Port-of-Spain, Trinidad, Wednesday, (CANA)--Oil looked good in Trinidad and Tobago this year, but agriculture stayed in the doldrums and, overall, inflation was an even bigger problem than was the case last year.

Petro-dollars in this small English-speaking Caribbean republic have created excess demand, pushing prices to new heights and sharpening the national taste for imported luxury goods.

Agriculture looks ludicrous when set against oil on the table of national output and earnings.

Oil by year-end is targeted to earn TT\$4 934 million or 35 per cent of Gross Domestic Product (GDP), while TT\$229 million is expected from agriculture, a mere 2.0 per cent of GDP.

"The domestic inflation situation has worsened over the last two years," says the Central Statistical Office. It adds that the situation reflects in part escalation in the prices of imports.

"However, much of the upward pressure on domestic prices have been generated by excess demand.

"Under these conditions, the government has found it necessary to reinforce the measures designed to reduce the impact of inflationary pressures on consumers.

"This has included the widening and deepening of its tax relief measures and the strengthening of its price control and subsidisation programmes."

The economy's buoyancy spurred by the boom in oil prices is having a tremendous impact in the construction industry.

A 14 per cent growth in 1978 was increased to 20 per cent last year, with output of TT \$785 million. Rapid growth continued this year, projected at 45 per cent and an output of TT\$1 135 million.

A decline has continued in unemployment and skills have become scarcer and thus more costly.

The statistical office says that last year's 10 per cent unemployment would have fallen into the single digit this year.

In a situation of petroleum-induced prosperity, labour is loath to flow into agriculture, which traditionally has represented backbreaking toil and unremunerative wages.

Telling the sad story of depressed agriculture this year, the statistical office said: "The performance of the agricultural sector has been particularly weak."

Some of the basic problems facing the industry had intensified in recent years.

"The problems of crop diseases is proving to be intractable while losses due to adverse weather conditions have escalated with the increased frequency of major floods.

"Labour shortages have become more critical as the labour force is attracted to other sectors of the economy for reasons both financial and psychological."

An inefficient marketing system was continuing to cause wide fluctuations in agricultural income flows, as well as financial losses through wastage.

Competition for available agricultural land was also growing more intense, with the expansion of industrial, housing and recreational activities into traditional agricultural areas.

"Under these conditions," says the statistical review, "the volume of food imports has escalated."

Sugar production dropped 21 per cent this year to 110.3 tonnes at a time when export prices were fairly high.

Contributory factors included labour shortage, declining yields in the cane-fields, technical problems and unauthorised burning.

Exports have declined significantly, and the country has not been able to honour its quota commitment to the European Economic Community (EEC).

Trinidad and Tobago is committed to supplying 74 000 tonnes annually under the Lome Convention. It sent only 56 000 tonnes in 1979, and the indications are that this year's will be substantially less.

Export of Trinidad and Tobago sugar within the Caribbean Community has all but vanished.

"The decline in domestic production has also promoted a significant rise in sugar imports," says the review, as it made some comparisons for recent years.

"The level of (sugar) imports during 1978 was almost four times as large as that of 1975. However, in 1979 such imports fell by 13 per cent to 6,000 tonnes. Nonetheless, imports as a proportion of local sales was 13.6 per cent in 1979, compared with 4.5 per cent in 1975."

Cocoa slid further downward in 1980. Last year's 2 628 000 kilograms was a 23 per cent fall below the 1978 level. Estimates are that 1980 will drop more than 25 per cent under last year's.

Coffee and citrus, two other major crops, did likewise, with the former running 12 per cent behind last year's output and the latter more than 50 per cent.

In addition, international cocoa and coffee markets have been depressed.

There is a national rehabilitation programme for the two crops still in the planning stages, said the review.

"The objective is to increase yields per hectare through the replanting of trees and the substitution of improved strains. The programme also involves the provision of appropriate incentives to farmers."

Copra (the heat-dried kernel of the coconut used for making edible oil) and tobacco also suffered significant production decline.

For Tobacco, 213 farmers in 1975 planted 219 hectares and produced 285 7 kilos. Last year there were 17 farmers on 14 hectares, with output of 119.

For tobacco, 213 farmers in 1975 planted 219 hectares and produced 285,700 kilos. Last year there were 17 farmers on 14 hectares, with output of 119,000 kilos.
[this paragraph and preceding paragraph as published]

Poultry, egg, meat, milk and fish production have shown decline, with rising imports to meet requirements.

Petroleum Earnings

Bridgetown ADVOCATE-NEWS in English 30 Dec 80 p 10

[Text] Port-of-Spain, Trinidad, Monday. (CANA)--In the years since the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) brought Trinidad and Tobago its oil bonanza, this country's payments position has been perpetually in surplus.

In money terms, the performance looks good. But in actual fact, the oil earnings when reflected in the statistics mask Trinidad and Tobago's increasing dependence on foreign imports.

Generally, productivity in the non-oil sectors, especially agriculture, has been distressing.

Trinidadians have a lot of money to spend, have been demanding salaries far out of keeping with their capacity to produce, shopping expeditions to Barbados, Miami and New York are becoming symbols of status.

As one economist has said, the people are increasingly being caught up in the petro syndrome, with the growing belief that with the oil wells flowing, whatever else the nation wishes could be bought abroad.

Trinidad and Tobago, which imports and processes for reexport more crude oil than it produces, is not a member of OPEC, but the price of its crude is determined by the levels OPEC sets.

In the period following the 1973 OPEC hike, the pattern of trade and payments in this country remained largely unchanged, according to an official review of the economy.

Exports continued to be dominated by petroleum and petroleum products, while imports consisted mainly of raw materials, food, machinery and transport equipment.

"The balance on total visible trade was continuously in surplus through the 1974-1979 period, although the surpluses fluctuated widely.

"On the other hand, the deficit balance on non-petroleum trade continued its upward climb.

"With respect to the direction of trade, there have been no significant changes. Exports remained dominated by one market, that of the US, while the sources of imports were more widely distributed.

"The overall balance of payments position was also in surplus throughout the period. Changes in these surpluses tended to follow movements in the visible trade balances, although official borrowings and capital inflows were also influential factors.

Last year, the surplus moved from a low of TT\$174.1 million (US\$71.4 million, 1978) to TT\$1 010 million (US\$414 million).

The REVIEW explained that the major factor accounting for the remarkable increase in 1979 surplus was "the tremendous growth in the value of exports.

"This in itself reflected the significant increases in petroleum prices on the international market from the middle of 1979.

"The latter development also accounted for a surplus of TT\$518.4 million (US\$212.5 million) during the first quarter of 1980 compared with a deficit of TT\$39.9 million (US\$16.4 million) in the corresponding period of 1979.

"Given the recent developments in the national and international economy, particularly in respect of petroleum, it is expected that the overall surplus in 1980 would significantly exceed that of 1979."

Last year total visible exports were valued at TT\$6 017.4 million (US\$2 467.2 million).

Of that amount, TT\$5 494.2 million (US\$2 252.6 million) derived from the export of mineral fuels.

The comparable total exports and mineral exports for 1978 were TT\$4 895.1 million (US \$2 007 million) and TT\$4 383.4 million (US \$1 797.2 million) respectively.

The balance on non-petroleum visible trade is expected to be in whopping deficit this year.

In 1974 that deficit was TT\$655.6 million (US\$268.8 million) it had jumped to TT\$1 835.9 million (US\$752.7 million) in 1977, and reached TT\$3 049.3 million (US\$1 250.2 million) in 1979.

The REVIEW reports that "in view of the intensification of price increases in 1980 and the relatively sluggish growth of domestic exports, it could be expected that the deficit would worsen."

The value of non-petroleum exports last year was TT\$523.2 million (US\$214.5 million).

Petroleum exports at 91 per cent of total is expected to be 93 per cent this year.

The REVIEW says that "with respect to the distribution of non-petroleum exports, the largest component was chemicals which accounted for 40 per cent in 1978, 38 per cent in 1979 and 45 per cent during the first quarter of 1980.

"The other significant item was food and live animals, the share of which declined from 46 per cent of total in 1975, to 33 per cent in 1979. First quarter data for 1980 reveal a further decline to 30 per cent."

The total value of imports in 1979 was TT\$5 007.4 million (US\$2 053 million) which was 6.0 per cent above that for the previous year.

"However," says the REVIEW, "the value of non-oil imports has increased more impressively, jumping by 27 per cent to TT\$3 572.5 million (US\$1 464.7 million) in 1979.

"Although some of the increase can be attributed to international inflation, it has also been due to the importation of a relatively larger volume of non-oil goods induced by the rapid growth in incomes and economic activity in the country."

It adds too that in the distribution of imports, there is significance in the declining share of petroleum imports, which fell from 58 per cent in 1976 to 29 per cent last year.

"This largely reflects the reduced level of imports of UPA petroleum. Imports of machinery and transport equipment, on the other hand, increased proportionately from 17 per cent in 1976 to 29 per cent in 1979.

"The share of food and live animal imports also increased from 7.0 per cent to 11 per cent over the same period.

"The changing patterns underline the reduced utilisation of local refining capacity by the international oil companies, the intensification of infrastructural and industrial activities and the growing importance of imports in domestic food consumption."

CSO: 3025

DOCK STRIKE ENDS; REPERCUSSIONS TO BE FELT INTO FEBRUARY

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 30 Dec 80 p 3

[Text] After five days of virtually no action on Port-of-Spain wharves, port operations return to normal today. But the repercussions of the standstill on the docks will be felt well into February, next year, as the large pile-up of ships waiting to be offloaded will affect operations for some time.

Yesterday, there were more than 15 ships waiting to be offloaded, and several more had to be diverted to other islands.

The port normally handles eight to ten ships daily, and according to Mr Bertie Lucas, Wharves Manager, the backlog will affect operations for at least one month.

Although delivery of goods had not been affected by the five-day standstill, there will be a setback in deliveries of the waiting cargo.

Managers of the port staged a sickout on Christmas Eve, to protest the breakdown in negotiations for a salary increase.

One of the major gripes of the managers is that workers receive higher wages than management, a situation which one port official said indicated that "all was not well at the port."

Since '75

The managers are complaining that their last salary increase was in 1975, whereas workers have received two salary revisions since that time, the last resulting in \$42 million in backpay benefits last year.

A spokesman said the managers could be called upon to work at any hour of the day, work overtime, and carried a great deal of responsibility, yet did not receive the remuneration due to them.

It was pointed out that in some cases workers received twice as much as members of management. The managers are asking for a 58 per cent increase over a three-year period.

Mr Lucas said yesterday it was "regrettable," that after a year of good reports on the port, that the managers should have to resort to a confrontation to get what was "due to them."

He added that the pile-up of ships during the past few days nullified all that management had tried to do this year to make the port an efficient establishment.

The five-day standstill is believed to be one of the longest in the port's history, and the first time that management has sought salary increases through industrial action.

Yesterday, however, of the 20 managers on the port, only a few stayed away, and those, it is believed, for legitimate reasons. The sickout had won the support of other port workers, last weekend, and operations from the entrances on Independence Square to Ana Street in Woodbrook were affected.

Meanwhile, meetings are being held to discuss the salary increase for the managers.

CSO: 3025

LABOR PROBLEMS MUSHROOM ON BROAD FRONT

Oil Workers' Protest

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 24 Dec 80 p 6

[Text]

SAN FERNANDO:
OILWORKERS employed with Trinidad and Tobago Oil Co. Ltd., (Trintoc) staged a second protest demonstration yesterday, around the company's administration building, in Point Fortin.

They are protesting the alleged refusal by the company to pay them an incentive bonus. They are also calling for their pension plan to be upgraded and brought in line with the Texaco plan.

Airline Bargainers

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 24 Dec 80 p 6

[Text]

SAN FERNANDO:
ALL-TRINIDAD Sugar and General Workers Trade Union has been granted recognition as the bargaining body on behalf of monthly-paid workers, numbering about 20 employed with Eastern Airlines.

Mr. Sam Maharaj, General Secretary, said yesterday recognition was effective to April 25, 1980.

"We have already communicated with the company, asking them to start negotiations immediately," the union officer added.

Caroni Stalemate

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 24 Dec 80 p 6

[Text]

SAN FERNANDO:
THE WAGE negotiating team of all Trinidad Sugar and General Workers' Trade Union (ATSGWTU) has expressed "bitter disappointment" over the stalemate in the current negotiations with State-owned Caroni, Ltd.

As a result, the union will continue its protest in front of Parliament every Friday, "because it is there where the struggle lies," commented union general secretary, Mr. Sam Maharaj.

The union and company met on Monday afternoon at Brechin Castle and Mr. Maharaj said they were told by the company's team that they had no instructions to move from their present position.

As a result, the union made it quite clear that picketing of Parliament will continue."

SHOCKED TO HEAR

Mr. Maharaj said: "We were shocked to hear such a

statement from the company's team. Since a certain minister of Government said in Parliament recently that the offer by the company was a minimum position.

The company made a package offer recently, which included a 45 per cent general

wage increase (25x10x10). That was rejected outright.

The union is holding out for wages comparable with those paid in other industries.

Meanwhile, the company is getting set to start its 1981 crop on January 6.

The union wants to see maximum production, and with that in mind, has called on its 10,000 members to produce as they never did before, "because we want to see the industry become viable once again."

Amoco Workers

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 24 Dec 80 p 6

[Text]

WORKERS employed with contractors doing work for Amoco at Point Galeota, Guayaguayare, returned to their jobs yesterday, on the advice of their union officers.

Most of them are members of Oilfields Workers' Trade Union (OWTU).

They had withheld their labour on Monday, to bring to the attention of Amoco, and the public at large, the "sub-standard wages and adverse conditions" under which they worked.

Oil Workers' Grievances

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 30 Dec 80 p 6

[Text]

SAN FERNANDO:

OILFIELDS Workers' Trade Union, OWTU through President General Mr George Weekes, has written Mr Andrew Rose, Chairman of the Board of Directors of Trinidad and Tobago Oil Co., Ltd., (Trintoc), bringing to his attention the issues allegedly causing unpleasantness at the company.

Pensions, incentive bonus, health and safety, job satisfaction and job security are the issues involved, and because of failure to settle the matters, the workers are wearing red armbands, and have already held two demonstrations at Point Fortin.

SINCE MAY

The union wants pensions to be updated and brought in line with those in other oil companies in the country.

OWTU has not and does not accept that there should be any "second class oil workers," and maintains that the reason advanced by the company, that it was awaiting an actuarial study, "is causing unnecessary prolongation of the issue."

Mr Weekes informed Mr Rose that the issue of productivity incentive bonus was

raised by letter of May 7, 1980. At that time there was no Christmas season, and therefore, there could be no question of the workers wanting a Christmas bonus.

"We believe that the workers must share in the fruits of their labour," he said, adding that the records would show that Trintoc's performance had improved considerably during the last period, more than justifying a bonus.

"In addition, we believe that a bonus now would lead to an improvement in the productivity in the next period, which, if quantified and reached, could then be the basis for additional incentives, etc," Mr Weekes wrote.

He said the workers — and this should be even more true in a national company — should be encouraged to produce.

Mr Weekes also spoke on the other matters in dispute, including what he described as "an abuse of the contract system."

On the question of health and safety, he said the union believed that Trintoc, being a national oil company, should take the lead — and be proud of it — in the area of health and safety, in the industry.

Teachers' Dissatisfaction

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 30 Dec 80 p 6

[Text]

SAN FERNANDO:

SCORES of teachers are dissatisfied over the back-pay received on the recent re-classification of the nation's teaching personnel.

Many claimed that the "take" was not what they had calculated, while some asserted that colleagues in the same school, with the same service and status, had received widely-varying sums, before tax.

They wondered what had happened to cause such discrepancies.

Not a single member of the staff in one school in the south got any backpay whatever.

Response from the Ministry of Education and Culture, it was reported, was that the ministerial clerk "looking after" backpay for the staff, had suffered a "nervous breakdown" and the processing exercise for those teachers had to be abandoned.

They were told further that no "definite time" could be given for them to get their backpay.

Disgruntled teachers, seeking clarification of the issue, found, on going to the Ministry in Port-of-Spain, a notice boldly exclaiming: "No backpay queries."

Some argued that the situation was yet another case for officials of Trinidad and Tobago Unified Teachers' Association (TTUTA), hoped that the problem would be settled before schools reopened on Monday, January 5.

CSO: 3025

COUNTRY SECTION

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

BRIEFS

MINISTER FOR TOBAGO--Port of Spain, Trinidad, Friday (CANA)--Minister of Public Information in Trinidad and Tobago, Patrick Manning has been named as Minister Responsible for Tobago, a Government statement has said here. His duties will involve discussions with members of the newly constituted Tobago House of Assembly, before taking their decisions to corporation sole, Prime Minister Dr Eric Williams. The 15 member Tobago Assembly is chaired by former Member of Parliament for Tobago East, Mr A.N.R. Robinson, leader of the Democratic Action Congress (DAC) which won eight of the Assembly's 12 elected seats at the November 24 election. [Text] [Bridgetown ADVOCATE-NEWS in English 20 Dec 80 p 3]

FISH PROCESSING PLANT--The National Fisheries processing plant which gets into full production by the end of February 1981 is expected to turn out 12,200 tonnes of fillets, steaks, salted and sun-dried fish, fish fingers, fish cakes and sausages. The plant is also expected to yield 1,400 tonnes of fishmeal for livestock feed and 365 tonnes of fish oil. These targets are set out in report to Parliament and on the 1980 Development Programme. So far the Government has spent \$29 million on land reclamation, dredging, piling, docking facilities, slipway, workshops, buildings, equipment, offices and storage facilities. The State-owned National Fisheries Company has bought a flying fish filletting machine to handle catches bought from Tobago fishermen. It has also bought machines to peel, devein and grade shrimps to automate the processing line. The company acquired a large crane to off-load fish. [Text] [Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 30 Dec 80 p 4]

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